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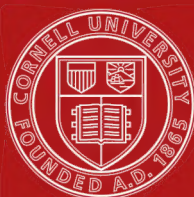
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A. P. MARVIN







# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN OF WINCHENDON,

(WORCESTER COUNTY, MASS.,)

FROM THE

GRANT OF IPSWICH CANADA IN 1735,

TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

*bijah  
arkins*  
REV. A. P. MARVIN.  
=

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"Children's children are the crown of old men: and the glory of children are their fathers."—PROVERBS XVII: 6.

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WINCHENDON:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.  
1868.

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## INTRODUCTION.

“The door swings wide; enter the structure plain,  
Roomy and somewhat large; of ornament  
Devoid, save that each hall, bracket and niche,  
Is graced with some ancestral form and face;  
And all is consecrate to God.”

### ORIGIN OF THE WORK.

At a town meeting held in March, 1857, it was voted “that the school committee be a committee to correspond with the family of the late Milton Whiton, to see upon what terms the manuscript can be procured, and report at some future meeting.” The “manuscript” referred to in the vote, consisted of four Lectures on the history of Winchendon, prepared by Rev. John Milton Whiton, D. D., then of Bennington, N. H., extending over about one hundred and fifty pages of medium sized sermon paper. Being a native of Winchendon and much interested in its early history, and being moreover addicted to historical inquiries, he had prepared a brief history of the town from the original grant of Ipswich Canada, to the year 1820. In the year 1855, he read two of these lectures in the town hall, to a respectable audience, by whom he was requested to read the remainder. Much interest was expressed in the work, and offers of compensation were made. The Dr., while declining to receive any pay, consented to continue the reading of his manuscript, at some convenient time. His decease, in the course of the coming season, prevented the fulfillment of his promise, but the people were desirous of possessing his manuscript, and either printing it as a History, or making it the foundation of a History of the town.

In accordance with the above vote, the committee,—Messrs. A. P. Marvin, Elisha Murdock, B. F. Clarke, E. S. Merrill and Isaac M. Murdock—corresponded with the family of Dr. Whiton, and purchased the four lectures for forty dollars. They reported that “the history was very valuable as far as it goes,” but that being in the form of lectures,

it "must be re-written, in part, or else be accompanied by occasional notes." The latter method was preferred by the committee. Besides other suggestions, was this: "that the town as a corporation, will be one hundred years old in a few years, when it is probable there will be a Centennial Celebration, the account of which will be an interesting chapter of town history." It was thought best therefore "to defer the publication until after that event." It was voted by the town, that inasmuch as the work of Dr. Whiton, "though valuable, is not complete, a committee be appointed to collect and compile such additional facts in relation to the military, business, educational and religious history of the town, as are necessary to bring the annals of the town down to the present time." The committee chosen were A. P. Marvin, Elisha Murdock, Bethuel Ellis, Stillman Hale and Isaac M. Murdock.

In March, 1860, this committee were instructed "to make a full and definite Plan of the History of the town, and report the same to the next town meeting." This vote was complied with, and a Plan was reported, which was adopted by the town. It is substantially that on which the following pages were written, and therefore need not be copied here. It may be said, however, that the report and plan contemplated a new work, and not merely Dr. Whiton's manuscript with notes. That was found to be impracticable. The manuscript could only be used as materials for history. In accordance with the recommendation of the committee, it was voted that "the work be embellished with pictures of the town hall and the old meeting-house on the hill, and also with a map of the town, to be procured at the public expense, and also with portraits, and with pictures of churches, dwellings, &c., at private expense." At subsequent times, the town voted to add pictures of the academy and the new school-house. In 1861, the committee were authorized to prepare a history on the plan proposed, and "draw on the treasury for all necessary expenses."

Action was taken at different times with reference to the publication of the history, as soon after the hundredth anniversary—1864—as convenient. But when the time came, the country was in the crisis of its fate; the centennial passed by without any municipal celebration; and it was the general opinion that the work ought not to be put to press until the suppression of the rebellion, in order that the action of the town in sustaining the government, might be included. For this rea-



son, it was voted, at the March meeting, in 1865, that the publication of the work be still farther deferred. At the same time, a vote was passed, requesting the writer to prepare the history of the town, and draw on the town treasurer for his compensation. In the meantime, Capt. Hale had been removed from the committee by death, and Mr. Luke Rice had been chosen in his place. The health of Hon. Elisha Murdock had failed, so that, for several years, he had been able to render no assistance. From the above date, the whole responsibility of preparing the work has rested upon the author, though votes were passed at different times, referring the matter of publication to the committee and the selectmen. By a vote in 1866, the work was farther delayed. At the March meeting in 1867, the publication of the work was authorized, and in the autumn of that year, it was seriously prosecuted. Collections had been made during the preceding years, but it was found necessary to make a thorough search of all the town records, as well as those of the churches, parishes and other associations. Several weeks were occupied in this work, and early in the present year, the writing of the history was commenced. At the March meeting,—1868—it was agreed that the “town would furnish the pictures and maps voted heretofore, at the town’s expense, and subscribe for seventy-five copies of the History,” if the author would publish the work at his own expense.

#### SOURCES OF THE WORK.

The “History of Winchendon” by the late venerable Mr. Ezra Hyde, was a very accurate and creditable work. It was appreciated by the public, and the edition was soon exhausted. But it was very brief, and merely referred to facts and events. All the records copied or referred to by him, I have consulted in the originals. For the dates when certain families moved into the town, and their places of residence, as well as for a number of facts recorded in the chapter on “note-worthy events,” his work deserves the credit. The manuscript of Dr. Whiton is worthy of his reputation as an accurate chronicler of events, written in an elegant style. Everything coming from his pen, was neat and correct. The paper is of superior quality, with gilt edges. The handwriting is legible as print, and as beautiful as an engraving, and the words and sentences take their places with almost faultless precision. But as the narrative was not complete, it was necessary to put

it aside, and write the history of the town anew. If the whole of his manuscript were printed, it would probably cover about seventy pages of this volume; but as it contains many references to extraneous matters, the part that relates to Winchendon would occupy much less space. The reader will be indebted to him for many anecdotes and incidents illustrative of the life and character of people here in the olden time.

I have thought it right to make these references to the much respected gentlemen who have written on the history of the town, but the true sources of the following history are to be found in original Records. I have read almost every page of the several volumes of town Records, including the Registers of births, marriages, and deaths. In addition, the Records of churches, religious societies, engine companies, literary associations, soldiers' aid societies, and committees, have been carefully examined. The work was long and dreary, but it was unavoidable if the history was to be full and reliable. Besides, I have consulted original papers in the offices of the Secretary of State, and the Adjutant-General. All the names of militia officers were copied from the rolls by my own hand; and in making out the roll of the soldiers in the late war, I searched through more than seven hundred pages of fine print, in the office of the State printers, in order to secure accuracy. But as the State has not yet half completed the work of printing a correct roll of all her soldiers, there must necessarily be omissions and errors in the chapter on the war.

The individuals to whom the author is indebted, are numerous. Bethuel Ellis, Esq., and Mr. Luke Rice of the committee, have rendered very valuable aid. The former has assisted in forming the maps, and in making out the list of soldiers; and by his surveys, has enabled me to give the height of the Centre above the water in the Village, and to form a plan of the Common. His advice has been sought on many occasions, and has always been esteemed. The extraordinary memory of Mr. Rice has been of great assistance. His mind is a repository of local and personal history, and he has been free to communicate. In particular, the names of all the married couples in town in the year 1800, were furnished by him. His name occurs often in the following pages, where proper credit is given. Many of the names on the pages accompanying the maps, were also derived from his recollection. Webster Whitney, Esq., has furnished several excerpts from the Records—in particular, nearly all the list of town officers—and has given much

verbal information. He has allowed me the freest access to the original papers in his office, and the printed works which would throw light on the history of the town. The Records through all the years of the town's existence, have been written in a legible hand, but some of the clerks had their own peculiar modes of spelling and of forming sentences. For the last thirty-six years, the Records are a model of neatness and accuracy.

The author takes pleasure in expressing his indebtedness to the late Mr. Smyrna Greaton for most of the facts in the history of the Methodist church; to the Hon. Artemas Hale, of Bridgewater; to Mr. Albert Brown for the papers of his venerable grandfather, the Hon. Abel Wilder; to Messrs. Jacob and John Woodbury, and many others, for information in regard to unrecorded facts. It should be added however, that the information of different persons often covered the same ground, and that in every instance, where possible, resort has been had to the Records for the sake of verification.

#### THE CENTENNIAL.

Reference has been made to the hundredth anniversary of the organization of the town, and to the fact that the centennial celebration which was contemplated, never took place. In fact, the town intended to have a celebration, and voted a thousand dollars to pay the expenses. A large and respectable committee was appointed to make arrangements. The Hon. William B. Washburn, our representative in Congress, a native of the town, was invited to prepare the historical address. But the pressure of business upon him made it impossible for him to find time for that service. As the time for the anniversary, the 14th day of June, 1864, drew nigh, the committee concluded to postpone, for the time, at least, the proposed celebration. The principal reason given was, that the public mind was too intently and anxiously fixed on the great struggle in the "wilderness," and beyond, where many of our soldiers were fighting and falling, to enter into the spirit of a centennial celebration. The time therefore passed by, with perhaps an expectation that later in the year, a day might be found for the commemorative festivity. But what is not done in its time, is generally never done; and thus it proved in this case. We had no centennial proceedings to make a chapter of history.

However, as the season wore away, and the time of year,—Novem-

ber,—when the first town meeting was held in the town, drew near, a desire was expressed by some of the aged inhabitants, to have a historical discourse on the early history of the town. Accordingly it was proposed to have all the congregations unite on Thanksgiving day, and after suitable expressions of gratitude for the Divine favor, in the blessings of the year, to recall the past of the town's history. On the appointed day, the North Congregational house of worship was thronged by the people from all parts of the town, who came to participate in the services. The preliminary exercises had special reference to Thanksgiving. The singing, the scriptures and the prayers were appropriate to the day. The devotions were conducted by Rev. Messrs. Clarke, Best and Litchfield. The author then gave an address which extended through an hour and a half, to which the audience listened with apparent interest. The facts and anecdotes crowded into it, form a part of this volume. Though a poor substitute for a centennial celebration, it served to show the interest of the citizens in the history of their ancestry, and a desire to honor their memory. The following hymns, written for the occasion, were sung. The first is inserted for its merit; the last, because it had the fortune to be in good company.

### ORIGINAL HYMN.

BY MISS N. A. W. PRIEST.

TUNE—DENNY.

#### ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Once more with thankful hearts we greet  
 This glad returning day,  
 Once more within these walls we meet,  
 To sing, and praise and pray.  
 To offer grateful thanks to God,  
 With hearts that overflow,  
 And trace the paths the fathers trod,  
 A hundred years ago.

A wild, unbroken solitude,  
 By foot of man untrod,  
 The grand primeval forest stood,  
 And stretched green arms abroad.  
 And where our church bells call to prayer.  
 And feet of hundreds go,  
 The wolf's long howl disturbed the air  
 A hundred years ago.

Our grandsires came with axe and plough,  
 They felled the forest tree,

Where fruitful fields are smiling now,  
 They broke the stubborn lea ;  
 They laid foundations firm and broad,  
 They builded sure and slow ;  
 We reap rich harvests where they sowed,  
 A hundred years ago.

They built them homes, they tilled the soil,  
 Their flocks they watched and fed,  
 With strong, brown hands inured to toil,  
 They won their daily bread.  
 And when the revolution came  
 They left the axe and plough,  
 And battled well in freedom's name  
 As we are battling now.

Then honor to those men of old,  
 Who felled the forest trees,  
 And warr'd with hunger, want and cold,  
 That we might dwell at ease.  
 God give us strength *our* work to do,  
 And grace our work to know,  
 Like those brave, simple men that lived,  
 A hundred years ago.

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## ORIGINAL HYMN.

TUNE—PARK STREET.

Our fathers' God ! to Thee we raise  
 Our hearts in songs of grateful praise,  
 For all the mercies Thou hast shown,  
 E'erwhile a hundred years have flown.

Then wild woods waved o'er all the waste,  
 The streams flowed by in useless haste ;  
 In swift pursuit the fierce wolf\* ran,  
 The stealthy savage† marked his man.

Beneath Thy smile our fathers wrought,  
 They built, they sang, they prayed, they fought ;‡  
 They hid the seed within the soil,  
 And waving harvests blest their toll.

The forest fell before their stroke,  
 The pine, the beech, the sturdy oak ;  
 In opening glades they reared their home,  
 And soon appeared Thy hallowed dome.

The rolling years have swiftly past,  
 But still Thy mercy standeth fast ;  
 That God who broke the Briton's sway,  
 Now guards us in this wrathful day.

Then garlands round the brows entwine  
 Of those who lived in " auld lang syne,"  
 And worship Him who reigns above,  
 With prayer and songs of grateful love.

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\* Incident in the life of Dr. Whiton ; also, of Col. Woodbury.

† Incident in the life of John Darling.

‡ Many were out in the Revolution.

## MAPS, PICTURES, PORTRAITS.

In a work of this kind it is desirable to have illustrations enough, without making a picture book. The maps have been prepared with great care. That of the town is mainly Whitney's map on a reduced scale, some of the obvious errors being corrected, as in the bend of the river between the Cemetery and the Butler mill. But instead of inserting the names of present residents in the map, a number has been used to designate the spot where each house or old cellar may be found. The numbers extend from 1 to 157 north and west of Miller's river, and from 1 to 146, south of the river. To each number, printed on a sheet facing the map, are annexed the name of the first owner or occupant, when it can be ascertained, the names of others who dwelt there subsequently, and the name of the present resident. In this way, the map, in itself, is a history of the town. A small o indicates an old cellar, though the artist has sometimes made the letter large, and in others has omitted it. In several instances the exact locality of early settlers cannot be found, and the name is inserted between those which are known, and near the spot of their residence. The outline of the hills is given as well as the summits. The courses of several brooks have been marked. The enlargement of the Monomonauk is indicated, as well as the location of smaller lakes. Discontinued roads are indicated by single or double dotted lines. New roads are inserted. The map of the Village is on the same plan. It is copied from Walling's survey, enlarged, and shows the new streets. By reducing the size of the town map, and printing the names on separate sheets, the cost has been reduced, at least one half, while the maps are more manageable, and their value is greatly enhanced. These, with the Plan of the original division of lots, were lithographed by Charles H. Crosby, of Boston.

The Pictures are designed to give specimens of the architecture of the place for the information of those who shall live here in future years. At the same time they serve to embellish the work. The churches and the town hall are given with neighboring buildings, simply because they thus appear to better advantage. By this means, moreover, the expense is divided. The picture of the Village, of the South Side, of Spring Village, of the Baptist Church, of the Church of the Unity, of the Methodist Church, of the Bank and of the New School House, were drawn on the block by Mr. Roswell M. Shurtleff. The rest, excepting







MRS. N. A. W. WAKEFIELD

the First Church, sketched by Charles J. Rice, Esq., were photographed by Mr. I. F. Alger. All the engravings, except that of the old Dea. Day house were made by Messrs. Russell & Richardson, of Boston.

The portraits have not been inserted for the purpose of flattering individuals or families. The plan of having portraits has been resolved on and reconsidered, several times. The fact that there are no pictures of many who most deserve to be remembered, seemed to render it advisable to have none at all. At the last moment, however, it was determined to have eight portraits. It was found impossible to have one of Hon. Abel Wilder, Capt. Phinehas Whitney, or any of the clergymen who were here previous to 1845. The portraits of Ephraim Murdock, Esq., Isaac Morse, Esq., and Mr. Amasa Whitney, are inserted, because they were, in a peculiar sense, the fathers of the Village. Mr. James Murdock, Sen., lived to a great age, was a highly respected citizen, and was in a certain sense among the fathers of the town. Hon. Artemas Hale is an aged gentleman, whose birthplace was here, and who has conferred honor on his native place. It was expected up to the last moment, to have a portrait of Dr. Israel Whiton, as a companion to that of Dr. Alvah Godding, because, with a brief interval, they illustrate the medical history of the town for about ninety years. It is an occasion of sincere regret that the portrait could not be obtained. Both Dr. Godding and Mr. Hale were reluctant to appear in this prominent manner, but kindly yielded to the request of friends. The portrait of the author has been inserted, at the request of friends whose wishes are imperative. The picture of Mrs. Wakefield,\* (Miss N. A. W. Priest,) has been procured by friends, without consulting her wishes, for which liberty the boon of pardon is hereby craved. It was deemed essential to the completeness of the work, that the portrait of the exquisite genius who is the author of "Over the River," and of "Heaven," should have a place. Thus it appears that Maps, Pictures and Portraits are illustrative of the history of the town, and are therefore of general interest. It may be added that the artists have done their work in a manner worthy of their high reputation.

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\* Mrs. Wakefield, though born in the edge of Royalston, belongs to Winchendon. Her family have resided here, from the beginning, through five or six generations. Her father moved into Royalston a little while before her birth, and returned while she was quite young.

It was the intention to have the work printed here, by Mr. Ward,\* who is unsurpassed as a workman, certainly by any outside of Boston. But it was not possible for him to obtain a suitable press until too late. Reluctantly therefore, and after considerable delay, the work was put into the hands of Messrs. Garfield & Stratton, of Fitchburg, whose workmanship will speak for itself.

It may be objected by some that the work is too large, and that too much space has been given to "Roads," "School Districts," and minute details. But no apology will be offered, and the work must be left to time for any needed justification. The utmost pains have been taken to secure accuracy, and to treat every event and every person with perfect fairness. Some may inquire why certain names are not to be found in the biographic chapter. For example, one son of Rev. Mr. Morton is distinguished as a business man in New York; Julius L. Clark, Esq., son of Rev. E. L. Clark, is highly respected as the Superintendent of State Charities; three sons of Rev. Mr. Storrs are graduates of Amherst College, and two of them were officers in the late war; and Rev. Charles N. Wilder is a graduate of Burlington University. But none of them are natives, and most of them received their education elsewhere. Doubtless errors and mistakes will be found, but these will be pardoned by those who appreciate even a hundredth part of the labor and care involved in preparing a town history.

#### CORRECTIONS.

Some errors have crept into the following pages, which need correction.

Page 105, line 1, insert Moses before Smith.

Page 113, line 27, for 1744 read 1774.

Page 226, line 6, insert Miss Caroline A. Pitkin.

Page 362, line 1, insert Joel Butler, 99.

Page 398, line 14, for raising read dedication.

Page 398, line 14, for 1792 read 1793.

Page 398, line 18, insert David Stoddard.

Page 424, line 7, for Otis read Samuel.

Page 431, line 7, of note, for Simeon read Daniel.

Page 434, line 28, for Newton read Hopkinton.

Page 439, line 9, for 1762 read 1752.

Page 476, add that Capt. Benjamin Wilder had 17 children.

Add to page 226, Mr. Frederick W. Russell and Miss Mary A. Marvin; and to page 380, the fact that the Alert Company, true to its antecedents, took the first prize at a muster in Fitchburg, on the 6th day of October, 1868.

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\* The first printer in Winchendon was Mr. Rollins, who had a job office, and started two small papers, one called "The Mirror," and the other the "Torchlight," a campaign paper, in 1852. Mr. Ward succeeded him, and prints, either plain or in colors, with much taste and elegance.

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RIDGE

45 H BURNHAM

Scale of rods.

■ *School House*  
 A *First Canal Church*.  
 B *Baptist Church*.  
 C *Site of old Methodist Church*  
 1 *Site of old School House*  
 0 *Old cellar*.  
 ⊕ *Old Mill Site*.  
 H *Cotton Factory*  
 — *Discontinued Roads*.  
 □ *Site of Block House*  
 \* *Mill*.  
 ÷ *First Meeting House*.  
 D *Center-Barryna Yard*  
 E *New Boston* ,  
 F *Cemetery*

# HOUSES NORTH OF THE RIVER \*

|                            |                         |                         |                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Asa Raymond,             | 48 John M. Fortistall,  | 87 Ephraim Fairbanks,   | 138 Abram Bowker,      |
| 2 Joseph Whitney Jr.,      | 49 Benjamin May, Jr.    | 88 James Murdoch,       | 139 Thomas Wyman, Sen. |
| 3 Jason Goodale,           | 50 David Buttrick,      | 89 Silas Gregory,       | 140 Silas Wyman,       |
| 4 Samuel Baldwin,          | 51 Amos Heywood,        | 90 Jonas Brooks,        | 141 John Day,          |
| 5 Oliver Parsons,          | 52 Thomas Knowlton,     | 91 Edward Murdoch,      | 142 John G. Goulding,  |
| 6 Roger Bigelow,           | 53 Jesse B. Watson,     | 92 Daniel Josiah,       | 143 Silas Fay,         |
| 7 John Essey,              | 54 James Payson,        | 93 William Knoll,       | 144 Daniel Rolfe,      |
| 8 Samuel Sargent?          | 55 Richard Whitney,     | 94 Peter Josiah,        | 145 Mrs. Betsey Smith, |
| 9 Robert Houghton,         | 56 Dennis Gailon,       | 95 Stephen Brown,       | 146 Daniel Rolfe,      |
| 10 Humphrey Harris,        | 57 Daniel Boynton,      | 96 Levi Boyer,          | 147 Frank Brown,       |
| 11 Joseph Harris,          | 58 Jacob Scott,         | 97 Phineas Stewart,     | 148 Mrs. Orris Fisher, |
| 12 Rice & E. Butler,       | 59 Benjamin Nutting,    | 98 Nathaniel Stewart,   | 149 Mrs. Hill,         |
| 13 George H. Whitney,      | 60 Calvin Goodridge,    | 99 Nathaniel Stewart,   | 150 Stephen White,     |
| 14 Leonard Partridge,      | 61 David Goodridge,     | 100 John A. Day,        | 151 William Norcross,  |
| 15 Michael Dugan,          | 62 Isaac Goodspeed,     | 101 William Norcross,   | 152 William Norcross,  |
| 16 Luther Stevens,         | 63 Luther Darling,      | 102 William Norcross,   | 153 William Norcross,  |
| 17 Patrick Harriman,       | 64 Lemuel Heywood,      | 103 C. J. G. Ball,      | 154 David Carter,      |
| 18 Nathan Ayward,          | 65 Ephraim Flint,       | 104 Albertus C. White,  | 155 Samuel Page,       |
| 19 Seth Proby,             | 66 Gamaliel Beaman,     | 105 Edward Lond., Jr.   | 156 Oliver Lovejoy,    |
| 20 James Tolman,           | 67 David Beaman,        | 106 Isaac Lond., Jr.    | 157 Albert Mann,       |
| 21 Stephen Tolman,         | 68 Elisha Beaman,       | 107 Daniel Taylor,      | 158 Uriah Crooks,      |
| 22 Luke S. Rogers,         | 69 Ezekiel Randall,     | 108 Phineas Parks, Jr.  | 159 David Alger,       |
| 23 Stephen Tolman,         | 70 Seth Tucker,         | 109 Benjamin Josiah,    | 160 Benjamin Alger,    |
| 24 David Caswell,          | 71 John Darling,        | 110 William Poland, Jr. | 161 Rainald Lathrop,   |
| 25 William Weston,         | 72 Henry Keith,         | 111 Joseph Hale,        | 162 B. Adams, Jr.      |
| 26 Luke S. Rogers,         | 73 Apolloa Keith,       | 112 William Poland,     |                        |
| 27 Seth Proby,             | 74 Peter Thomas,        | 113 James E. Lawrence,  |                        |
| 28 John B. Packard,        | 75 Enoch Kidder,        | 114 William Bosworth,   |                        |
| 29 W. Bigelow,             | 76 Thomas Kidder,       | 115 Elisha Hardy,       |                        |
| 30 Mary Ann Caswell,       | 77 James Desmond,       | 116 Elisha Bowker,      |                        |
| 31 Charles O. Hicks,       | 78 Stephen Belknap,     | 117 Elisha Bowker,      |                        |
| 32 Watson Monroe,          | 79 Frank Emery,         | 118 Joseph W. Alger,    |                        |
| 33 James Mitchell,         | 80 Nathan Robinson,     | 119 Asa Bowker, Sen.    |                        |
| 34 John Newton,            | 81 Daniel May, Jr.      | 120 Wm. Bowker,         |                        |
| 35 Kenerly E. Carrel,      | 82 Abraham Pierce,      | 121 John Bowker,        |                        |
| 36 Augustine Houghton,     | 83 Howard Savin,        | 122 Nelson Rice,        |                        |
| 37 Seth B. Spaulding,      | 84 A. J. Streeter,      | 123 Alfred H. Williams, |                        |
| 38 Mrs. John Pillsbury,    | 85 George J. Parks,     | 124 George Sibley,      |                        |
| 39 Charles Baldwin,        | 86 Samuel Robbins,      | 125 William Sibley,     |                        |
| 40 Calvin Wheeler,         | 87 George A. G. Tolman, | 126 Wm. Sibley, 2d,     |                        |
| 41 John I. McCutley,       | 88 James H. Taylor,     | 127 Thomas Wyman, Jr.   |                        |
| 42 Geo. T. J. Bateley,     | 89 Daniel Pierce,       | 128 David Sibley,       |                        |
| 43 Mrs. Percival Bartlett, | 90 Samuel Pierce,       | 129 Joseph Walker,      |                        |
| 44 C. B. Capron,           | 91 Daniel Melverson,    | 130 Joseph Walker,      |                        |
| 45 George Whitcomb,        | 92 Mrs. B. Weston,      | 131 Samuel Simonds,     |                        |
| 46 Michael Wash,           | 93 Lewis Chase,         | 132 Samuel Simonds,     |                        |
| 47 Mrs. David Flint,       | 94 Wm. B. Brooks,       | 133 Asa Alger,          |                        |
| 48 Jacob Whitney,          | 95 Edwin Beechick,      | 134 Andrew Dunn,        |                        |
| 49 John Crosby,            | 96 George Holman,       | 135 Daniel Day, 2d,     |                        |
| 50 John Farmer,            | 97 Samuel Holman,       | 136 Asa Bowler, Jr.,    |                        |
| 51 Levi Page,              | 98 John Brooks,         | 137 Joshua Wyman,       |                        |
| 52 George Hartwell,        | 99 Joshua Brooks,       | 138 Sylvia Alger,       |                        |
| 53 Hannah Whitney,         | 100 Daniel Heywood,     | 139 Mrs. Ezekiel Day,   |                        |
| 54 Joshua Nutting,         | 101 Sumner Brooks,      | 140 Joseph Day, 2d,     |                        |
| 55 Daniel Heywood,         |                         | 141 Stephen B. Smith,   |                        |

# HOUSES SOUTH OF THE RIVER.

|                        |                           |                       |                           |                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Isaac Stinson,       | 44 Clark Raymond,         | 72 Levi Barrett,      | 100 Martin L. Stoddard,   | 128 Samuel Whitcomb,    |
| 2 Joshua Gill,         | 45 Jesse Raymond,         | 73 Thomas Greenwood,  | 101 David Stinson,        | 129 Asahel Alger,       |
| 3 Shewens Beals,       | 46 Levi Raymond,          | 74 Thomas Greenwood,  | 102 David Melviah,        | 130 Apollis Howard,     |
| 4 Geo. L. Beals,       | 47 David Roberts,         | 75 Nath. Bryant,      | 103 John Kilburn,         | 131 Mr. Muggins,        |
| 5 Dr. Penland,         | 48 William Parker,        | 76 Israel Whitcomb,   | 104 Geo. Partridge,       | 132 Samuel Russell,     |
| 6 John & Abel Benis,   | 49 Jacob B. Woodbury,     | 77 Thomas Hughes,     | 105 John Kilburn, Jr.,    | 133 Peter Russell,      |
| 7 John & Abel Benis,   | 50 John T. Woodbury,      | 78 Levi Divoll, Jr.,  | 106 Lincoln Raymond,      | 134 Asa Hale,           |
| 8 John Cook, Jr.,      | 51 William Whitney,       | 79 Patrick Welch,     | 107 Charles Raymond,      | 135 Abiel Alger,        |
| 9 Reuben Benis,        | 52 Joseph Whitney,        | 80 Harvey Divoll,     | 108 James Baldwin,        | 136 Ursula Howard,      |
| 10 John Flint,         | 53 Isaac Taylor,          | 81 James N. Norcross, | 109 Daniel Day,           | 137 Edith Sewell,       |
| 11 John Eery,          | 54 Joseph Shaw,           | 82 T. Nichols,        | 110 Roswell Warner,       | 138 William Smith,      |
| 12 David Flint,        | 55 Ebenzer Sherwin, Sen., | 83 I. B. Lockwood,    | 111 Levi Tolman,          | 139 Thornton Barrett,   |
| 13 Nathan Flint,       | 56 Ahmazaz Sherwin,       | 84 Nathan Knight,     | 112 Cyrus Brown,          | 140 David Rice,         |
| 14 David B. Flint,     | 57 Charles H. Higelow,    | 85 Reuben Vose,       | 113 Wm. Whitney,          | 141 Samuel Hartwell,    |
| 15 Dudley Parley,      | 58 David S. Flint,        | 86 Joseph Porter,     | 114 Amasa Brown,          | 142 James Bruce,        |
| 16 Joseph Whitney,     | 59 Jonathan Parmenter,    | 87 George Coffin,     | 115 Thos. & John Flint,   | 143 John Noyes, Jr.,    |
| 17 George Page,        | 60 Ephraim Parmenter,     | 88 Abel Alger,        | 116 Mrs. George E. Smith, | 144 Jacob Wales, Sen.,  |
| 18 Moses Hale,         | 61 Richard Fitchfield,    | 89 Job Fry,           | 117 Amos Hale, Sen.,      | 145 Samuel Noyes,       |
| 19 Seth Maynard,       | 62 David Maynard,         | 90 Ben. King,         | 118 James Noyes,          | 146 Calvin Cross,       |
| 20 Richard Fitchfield, | 63 Francis Bridge,        | 91 Thornton Barrett,  | 119 Silas Brown,          | 147 Jonas Bradish, Jr., |
| 21 John Gill,          | 64 Asa Peirce,            | 92 Bill Hancock,      | 120 John Raymond,         | 148 Daniel Day, 2d.,    |
| 22 David Maynard,      | 65 Levi Moor,             | 93 Timothy Hancock,   | 121 Ezra Porter,          | 149 Mrs. Fry,           |
| 23 Francis Bridge,     | 66 John Haggood,          | 94 Leavitt Hancock,   | 122 Leavitt Hancock,      | 150 James Bradish, Jr., |
| 24 Asa Peirce,         | 67 Mrs. Abiah Pierce,     | 95 Samuel Noyes,      | 123 Asa Norcross, Sen.,   | 151 Jonas Bradish, Jr., |
| 25 Levi Moor,          | 68 Samuel D. Woodbury,    | 96 Leavitt Hancock,   | 124 Levi Stoddard,        | 152 Aaron Bowker,       |
| 26 John Haggood,       | 69 Mrs. L. A. Poland,     | 97 Leavitt Hancock,   | 125 Abel Brown,           | 153 Joseph Alger,       |
| 27 Mrs. Abiah Pierce,  | 70 Flavel Crosby,         | 98 Aaron Massey,      | 126 Hezekiah Brown,       | 154 John Kilburn,       |
| 28 Samuel D. Woodbury, | 71 Mrs. L. A. Poland,     | 99 Joseph J. Dunn,    | 127 Luke Brown,           | 155 Charles Raymond,    |
| 29 Levi Penness,       | 72 Joseph Adams,          | 100 Daniel Stoddard,  | 128 Elbridge Brown,       | 156 David Stoddard,     |
| 30 Mrs. L. A. Poland,  | 73 Horace Whitcomb,       | 101 Daniel Balcom,    | 129 Daniel Balcom,        | 157 Isaac Cummings,     |
| 31 Flavel Crosby,      | 74 Isaac Cummings,        | 102 Lyman Raymond,    | 130 M. B. White,          | 158 Lincoln Balcom,     |
| 32 Joseph Adams,       | 75 John Pike,             | 103 Isaac Cummings,   |                           | 159 James Noyes,        |
| 33 Horace Whitcomb,    | 76 Amos Stearns,          | 104 Jos. Smith,       |                           | 160 James Wiley,        |
| 34 David R. Hall,      | 77 Isaac Smith,           |                       |                           |                         |
| 35 John Pike,          |                           |                       |                           |                         |
| 36 Amos Stearns,       |                           |                       |                           |                         |
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# HISTORY OF WINCHENDON.

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## CHAPTER I.—TOPOGRAPHIC.

### SECTION 1.—LOCATION OF THE TOWN.

“Scenes must be beautiful, which daily view’d  
Please daily, and whose novelty survives  
Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years :  
Praise justly due to those that I describe.”

COWPER.

Every history has its scene, or field of action. It is a convenience to the reader to have the means of fixing this field exactly in his mind. It may be supposed by some, at first view, that it is quite needless to describe the location, the boundaries, the surface, and the natural features of so limited a portion of the State as is embraced in a town. But, in the first place, it is probable that only a few of the inhabitants of any town, can accurately give the facts included in these terms. Besides, it may reasonably be expected, that many descendants of parents who lived and died here, but who themselves left the place in childhood ; as well as remoter descendants who were born elsewhere, will have the curiosity to read the history of the “old homestead.” Such persons will not grudge the space occupied by the following particulars.

Winchendon is one of the three border towns of Worcester county on the north, having Ashburnham on the east, and Royalston on the west. It is distant from Worcester, by direct line, thirty-one miles. By the carriage road through Templeton, or through East Princeton the distance is about thirty-five miles; and by railroad, *via* Fitchburg, not far from forty-four miles. The distance to Boston direct, is sixty miles, by stage route, sixty-five miles, and by railway, sixty-eight miles. The latitude of the centre of the town is 42 deg., 39 min.; and the longitude of the same point is 4 deg., 4 min. east from the meridian of Washington, and 72 deg., 3 min. west from the meridian of Greenwich.

The location, in respect to the level of the ocean, which must be regarded in learning the temperature of any locality, is very elevated. If the land of the town were on a perfect level, it is probable that the surface would be at least a thousand feet above tide-water. The top of the dam at Goodspeed & Wyman's establishment, where the road from the village to the centre crosses the river, is 1060 feet above the ocean. This was ascertained by Loammi Baldwin, in making the survey for the proposed canal between Boston and the Hudson river; and by Engineer Cheesebrough, who surveyed a railroad route through the town. More than half the surface of the town has a higher elevation than this point. The temperature is therefore lower than in other places in the same latitude, and as a result of this, frosts late in the spring, and early in the fall, endanger the crops.

## SECTION 2.—ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES.

The original were quite different from the present boundaries of the town. The grant made by the legislature, June 10, 1735, provided "that a Tract of Land of the contents of six miles square," be given to Abraham Tilton and others; but the location was not specified in the act, except in the following indefinite manner, viz, "be laid out in

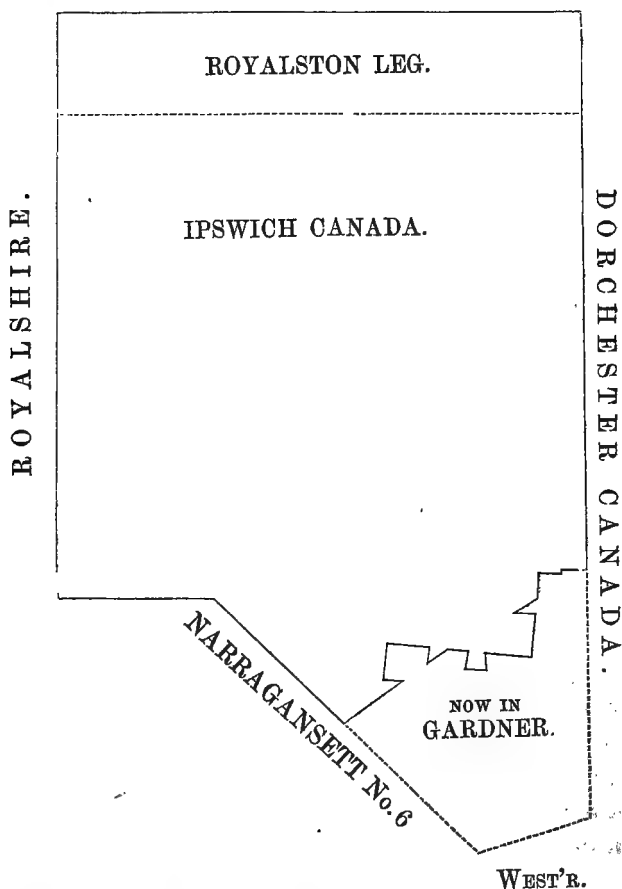
a suitable place in the western part of this Province." No information is given in the Records to show why the grant was located here ; but it is probable that this matter was arranged between the grantees and the officers of the provincial government, having the public lands in charge. The committee named in the act, were directed to "return the Plat of the said township to the Court;" which duty was doubtless performed, but we have not the record, and therefore cannot give the exact shape of the first "plat." In 1755, a committee was appointed to "run the lines and renew the bounds of Ipswich Canada, (now Winchendon,) and Dorchester Canada, (now Ashburnham,) and any of the townships that border on Ipswich Canada." The committee "run the lines, and renewed the corner bounds, by adding stones and marking trees." Probably these bounds are the same as those given in the Act by which the town was incorporated in the year 1764. These bounds, beginning on the northeast corner of the township, are as follows: "South twelve degrees west, seven miles and two hundred rods on Dorchester Canada; west eighteen degrees south, two hundred and seventy rods on Westminster; north thirty-six degrees west, four miles and two hundred and twenty rods on Templeton line; north seventy-eight degrees west, six hundred rods on Templeton line; north twelve degrees east, four miles and two hundred and sixty rods on Royalshire; east twelve degrees south,\* six miles on Royalshire line." The northern boundary was Royalston, (then called Royalshire.) This singular fact is accounted for in the following way. After the township was located, when the line was run between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, it was found that a strip of land about a mile in width, the whole length of the town, which was formerly supposed to belong to the latter colony, was in fact, south of the line. For some unknown cause, this strip was assigned to Royalston, when that town was incorporated, and was called Royalston leg. By degrees it was settled, and in 1780, by request of the inhabitants, it

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\* The original reads "south seventy-eight deg. west;" an obvious mistake.

was set off to Winchendon. It contained three thousand eight hundred and forty acres. The following diagram shows the original the present boundaries. The dark lines bound the town as it is now the dotted lines indicate the original shape and size.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE.



### SECTION 3.—PRESENT BOUNDARIES AND EXTENT.

By the addition of Royalston Leg, in 1780, six square miles three thousand eight hundred and forty acres, were added to the town; and the eastern and western boundary lines were lengthened one mile; but in 1785, it was nearly reduced to its original dimensions.



by the annexation of three thousand six hundred and eighty acres to Gardner, which was incorporated in that year. Since then the south-east boundary has undergone several changes, for the accommodation of land-owners on the border. The present boundaries will be found on the preceding page, and on the map of the town which accompanies this work.

The northern boundary, which is the line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, is six miles in length: the eastern line, on Ashburnham, is five miles, two hundred rods; the Gardner line is three miles, and about one hundred and forty rods;\* the Templeton line is four miles and forty-eight rods; and the western line remains as it was after the annexation of Royalston leg, five miles, and two hundred and sixty rods. These lengths are not mathematically exact, but they approximate to correctness. The circumference of the town is therefore twenty-four miles and about two hundred rods. The northern, eastern and western lines are straight; that between Winchendon and Templeton is divided into two nearly equal parts, both direct. The town contains something more than twenty-six thousand two hundred and ninety-five acres of surface, including land and water.

#### SECTION 4.—SURFACE; WATER, PLAINS, HILLS, &c.

The map of the town exhibits the external features of the township with more accuracy than could be attained by verbal description. A few words however may be of use in aiding a stranger to understand the surface, and the general appearance of the town.

**WATER.**—The location and course of lakes and rivers show the configuration of the land. As water always flows down hill, it is easy, by tracing brooks and rivers to their source, to form an idea of the land surface of a town, county or state. It is convenient therefore, in describing the surface of Winchendon, to begin by a brief reference to its lakes, ponds and streams.

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\* That is, a direct line from the point where the towns of Ashburnham, Gardner, and Winchendon unite, to a similar point between Gardner, Templeton and Winchendon, is three miles, and nearly one hundred and forty rods. The real line, which is broken by many sharp angles, is almost twice as long.

The town is well watered. The soil is adapted to retain moisture, and springs abound. The elevation of the land also has some tendency to induce atmospheric moisture. There is but one natural lake of considerable size, wholly within the town. This is situated towards the southwest, and is called Denison pond. It covers nearly one hundred acres. It is a beautiful sheet of pure, clear water, surrounded by a margin of clean sand and pebbles, and adorned near the shore with water lilies. A small stream, by gentle descent, flows into it from the north, and an outlet, called Cold brook, with only fall enough to carry off its surplus water, opens from the south side to Miller's river, about a hundred rods distant. When the water in the river is high, it flows back into the lake, and in former times, there was a passage where it flowed out again near the southwest corner. The bridge over this latter passage, was formerly called the "dry bridge," because it was dry except a few days in the year. For many years there has been no bridge, and the road has been so high that no water can pass it; and the traveler would not suspect that water had ever had an outlet in that locality.

In the large tract of woodland stretching north from the Butler Mills, (now owned by Rice & Wyman,) to the Monomonauk lake, are two small bodies of water, one of which is called lake Jones; but they are so small in surface, and so shallow, that they require no farther notice. But there is one other natural pond to the southwest of these, which is known to but a few of the inhabitants of the town, but which may hereafter become a place of frequent resort. It is about two hundred rods south by west from the house of Mr. Stephen Tolman, and nearly equidistant from the Murdock and Butler Mills. A convenient way to reach it is found by following the Cheshire railroad easterly of the Cemetery to the high sand bank. The little lake, enclosed by wooded hills, is just north by west of the bank. It is completely secluded from observation, and never seen except by those who stray from the haunts of men, when hunting, fishing, or searching for nature in her most hidden retreats. The hill, at its eastern end, rises abruptly about eighty feet, and is densely wooded. A stream comes in by several leaps, at the northeast corner. The outlet is from the west. It is sometimes called "Barren Hill lake," and by some "Lake Martin." It is suggested that a more appropriate and beautiful name would be "Sylvan Lake."

At the northeast of the town lies Monomonauk\* lake, about three miles in length; but the greater part of this fine body of water is in the town of Rindge, N. H. Nearly one-third of its southern and narrower part, lies in Winchendon. At this end a dam raises the water about eleven feet above its natural level, and so enlarges the lake that it covers not far from twenty-six hundred acres. It is fed by a large stream which flows in from the north by the Converse Mills in Rindge, by several rivulets, and by numerous springs, which combine to render it a vast reservoir of water power.

This is the source of the north branch of Miller's river, which runs south by west through Spring Village, and by Murdock's mill, about two miles, when it is joined by the eastern branch which comes in from Ashburnham. The junction is near the middle of Baxter D. Whitney's pond, just northeast of Winchendon Village. Both branches supply about the same amount of water annually. The eastern branch is fed by the upper and lower Naumkeag lakes in Ashburnham, and by several streams. Mr. Amasa Whitney, Sr., who was for many years, the proprietor of the old woolen factory, used to say that the eastern branch supplied the most water in a year, but that the northern branch, coming from a large pond and reservoir, was the surest reliance in the dry season of the year. The river descends rapidly, and thus furnishes numerous mill-sites. There are at least a dozen fine water privileges in the course of four miles. The river from its junction flows west to the railroad bridge; thence south to the dam of Goodspeed & Wyman; thence west by south to Waterville and beyond; thence in a northwesterly direction more than a mile, when receiving Stuart's brook from the north, it turns suddenly and runs south on nearly a dead level, about four miles. At this point it receives Otter river from Templeton, and thus enlarged, pursues its course in a southwesterly direction, leaving the boundary of the town about one-third of a mile north of its southwest corner. It never approaches nearer than a mile to the centre of the town, and in some places, is three miles distant. This river, if we count the length of both its branches, runs not far from fourteen miles within the limits of

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\* It is sometimes written Monomonac, or Monomonoc; but *auk* is an Indian termination signifying place; and we are told by respectable authority that Monomonauk means the "place of islands," as the lake in its natural state had several islands which are now submerged, besides others now visible.

the town, and is the occasion of much and varied industry, and the source of yearly increasing wealth.

Priest's brook or river comes in on the west, from Royalston, about two and a half miles from the New Hampshire line, and flows just inside the western border of the town, though inclining to the east, and enters Miller's river not far from the junction of the Otter, and also the affluent from Denison lake.

About two miles south of the centre of the town is Poor's pond. This was, probably, in the distant past, quite a body of water, but in the course of ages, it has been nearly filled by deposits made by two or three streams which flow into it on the east and north. The stream from the east is called "Potato brook," which name, according to tradition, had the following origin. A party of men working on the highway came to this brook about noon, and took their dinner consisting mainly of potatoes, washing them down with draughts from the flowing water. Half in earnest and half in sport, they christened it Potato brook. By means of a dam at the southwest extremity of the pond, a large body of water is raised in the winter; but in the summer, nearly the whole bottom is covered with grass. The water flows off by a small stream in a southwest course, and joins Otter river, which for a short distance, skirts the southern boundary of the town.

Not far from a mile and a half to the southeast of Poor's pond is a large reservoir which lies in the extreme southern part of the town. This is fed by a brook coming in from the north. About a mile east is White's brook, which runs south and enters Otter river in Gardner. There are numerous other brooks and rivulets, but none of sufficient size to affect materially the configuration of the township, or to drive machinery. Perhaps an exception should be made in regard to the brook which comes from Rindge, and drives the Loud mill in Bullardville; but this is included in Stuart's brook, of which it is a feeder. The valleys through which these various streams flow, afford many pleasant scenes that give a grateful variety to the landscape. Nearly twenty artificial ponds add beauty to the scenery while they subserve the uses of man.

**HILLS.**—The hills which give great diversity to the surface of the town, need not be described at length, since their location can be easily found on the map. But it may be truly said that Winchendon

belongs to the "hill country" of the State. For though it contains more of sand-plain than any of the neighboring towns, yet it is chiefly made up of quite elevated hills. One hill extending in every direction from the centre, includes nearly a fifth part of the township. It extends about three miles from east to west, and averages more than two miles in width from north to south. Its highest point, just northwest of the meeting house in the centre is 348 feet above the dam of Goodspeed & Wyman, and 1408 feet above the level of the sea. From this elevation the prospect is quite extensive. Wachusett mountain is visible a little east of south, about fifteen miles distant; and the grand Monadnock rises in full view, about the same distance to the north. At the west, some seventy or eighty miles, the long range of the Green mountains can be seen extending from the north part of Berkshire—Greylock—far up into Vermont. In the afternoon of a sunny day, when the shadows fall on the eastern slope of the mountains, the beholder, as his eye moves from point to point on this distant range, is reminded of a line in Macaulay's "Farewell of the Huguenots to France"—

"The long waving line of the blue Pyrenees."

The north part of the town is occupied by another hill parallel to that which fills the centre. It rises from Spring Village on the east, and extends to Bullardville on the west, not far from three miles. Its summit,—or rather its four or five high points,—are about one mile from the State line. These elevations are nearly equidistant, and the valleys between them run at an angle with the general direction of the hill considered as a whole. That is, it appears as if some moving body, ice or water, had struck the north side of the ancient summit, had scooped out several passages, in a direction from north west to southeast, and thus left these points higher than the rest, lying angle-wise to the east and west direction of the hill. The hill descends gently towards the Village. It is covered for the most part, with excellent farms. Viewed from the south, in summer time, when the grass lands and the fields of grain, and the wooded slopes, all clothed with verdure, combine to make up a varied landscape, the eye roves over it with great satisfaction.

A similar hill, though less in elevation and extent, sometimes called Raymond's hill, lies parallel to the two already described, at the

southern end of the town. This extends nearly two miles from east to west, and descends gently in every direction. The south side slopes into Templeton. It is almost entirely covered with good and well cultivated farming land. Between this and the central hill, there are two or three smooth, rounded elevations, cultivated to the top. Besides these, there is a line of hills running north and south, on the eastern, and also on the western border of the town, which tend greatly to diversify the surface. That on the east is divided by the eastern branch of Miller's river. There is also quite a high ridge between the two southern branches or horns of Monomonauk lake, called "Barren hill." The names of the various hills, as given in early times, are here copied from Mr. Hyde's History of Winchendon. "Meeting House hill," just northwest from the central common; "Prentiss hill," on the south side of Miller's river, and east of Waterville, formerly occupied by Dea. Samuel Prentiss; "Benjamin hill," between the last and the centre; "Hale hill," a mile east of the centre, formerly owned by Dea. Moses Hale. These four are parts of the large central hill. The large hill at the north end of the town, has no name, but the four elevations already described are called respectively, beginning at the east, and going west, "Crosby hill," "Payson hill," formerly owned by Col. John Boynton, and now in possession of Capt. E. Murdock; "Boynton hill," owned in early times by Lieut. Joseph Boynton, and "Goodridge hill," once the property of Mr. David Goodridge. "Hyde hill" is north of Miller's river, and northeast of Waterville. Formerly the only road from Waterville to the Village was over or around this hill. "Lovejoy hill," "Poland hill," and "Tallow hill," are divisions of the great elevation in the northwest section of the town. The hill occupied by the Woodburys and Raymonds in the east of the town, is called "Nineteenth hill." "Raymond hill" has already been noticed. "Birch hill" is south of Miller's river, near the junction of the Otter.

PLAINS AND MEADOWS.—There is a tract of land, in the easterly part of the town, on the road to Ashburnham, which is of a light, sandy make, and very level. Bullardville is on a small plain encircled by water and woods. Between Bullardville and Waterville, by either road, there is another section of the same general character, but much more extensive. Below where the Kilburn mill used to

stand, the plain gradually widens out towards the southern end of the town. This plain is between two and three miles in length, and averages more than half a mile in width. The aggregate of these plains amounts to several hundred acres. Besides these there are many acres of meadow and intervale along the water courses, which materially increase the proportion of level land in the town. The soil, whether hill, plain, valley or meadow, though not naturally rich, is susceptible of cultivation, and yields a fair return to well-directed labor.

**FORESTS.**—Originally the township was a dense and almost unbroken forest, full of game. In the northeast section, there were oak and chestnut trees to some extent. Beech was found in different parts. Maple and birch were more common. Graceful elms waved in scattered clusters. Most of the surface however, was covered with pine and other evergreen trees. In bringing the land under cultivation in early times, trees enough were destroyed to make many fortunes now, if they had been preserved. And here it may be observed that within a few years preceding the writing of this history, large pine trees, which were thrown down long ago, by tempests, have been dug from a swamp, in the westerly part of the town, and found to be in fine preservation.

**FLORA.**—The Botany of Winchendon is similar to that of other towns of the same latitude and elevation, in this section of the State. It may be stated, as a matter of interest to some, that the *Linnæa Borealis*, a very rare plant, is found in two or three localities in the town. It grows in at least two places on the east side of Poor's pond, near the road, and also on the land of Dea. Butler.

**FAUNA.**—In early times, all kinds of animals common to New England, roamed through the woods of Winchendon. Bears have been seen here since the opening of the present century. Wolves were not uncommon in the days of the early settlers. Deer were quite abundant. One of the town officers for many years after the organization, was a "deer reeve." The last deer seen wild in this town, was in 1866. This was evidently a wandering deer, who had lost his reckoning. It was seen in New Boston. The otter, the lynx, and the mink are still found, though not abundant. Beavers disappeared long since.

Among the rare birds are eagles, cranes, wood ducks and loons. One of the latter, a splendid bird, weighing sixteen pounds, was shot on Denison lake, a few years since. Its plumage was exceedingly beautiful.

In old times the town annually chose a "fish reeve." His duty was to see to the preservation of fish, and prevent their wanton destruction. Our waters have always furnished much sport to the disciples of Isaak Walton. Horn pout are abundant. Suckers find their way up to the Monomonauk. Pickerel are plentiful and very fine. Trout are found by those who know their lurking-places, and have the knack of winning their confidence.

#### SECTION. 5—GEOLOGY.

Formerly large boulders of granite were scattered over the township much more numerous than at present. These have been, to a great extent, split, and used for the under-pinning of buildings. The ledges, wherever they crop out are found to be composed of metamorphic rock—and the larger part of the stones lying loose upon the surface, or under the soil, are composed of the same material. The town has no wealth of minerals and metals; but quartz crystals are occasionally found, and in some places water impregnated with iron, issues from the ground. The principal spring of this kind, is at Spring Village, where a steady stream supplies many families with water for all household uses except washing. This spring was known to the Indians, and it has been in good repute ever since the white settlers came into this region. If a good hotel were opened in the vicinity, the water, in connection with conveniences for riding, hunting, boating and fishing, would doubtless attract much company, in the summer and autumn.

Probably a scientific observer would find indications of the ice period which formerly prevailed in New England. But there is an immense boulder, near the summit of the hill, in the centre of the town, which must have been transported thither by floating ice, rather than pushed up to that elevation by a glacier. The "lay of the land" in every direction, seems to forbid the conclusion that this rock was put in place by glacial action. There is a class of facts which point



to a period when the surface of the earth in this region, was covered with ice ; and there is another class of facts, which can be satisfactorily accounted for only by the theory of floating ice. In those old days when the land was under water, even to the highest hill-tops, immense icebergs were borne by the waves over this section, and huge boulders as well as smaller rocks, which adhered to the under side of the ice, were deposited, sometimes in regular order, but generally in wild confusion.

It is probable that in the "gray eld," the water was thrown back by a natural dam near Goodspeed & Wyman's works, as far as the Butler mill, some two and a half miles. A similar obstruction near the Kilburn mill flooded the meadows as far up the river as Hydeville. And it is hardly possible to resist the conclusion, that the waters which once covered all the plains in the southwest part of the town, and the adjoining sections of Templeton and Royalston, were held in check by some natural elevation at South Royalston.

## CHAPTER II.—EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT.

### SECTION 1.—EXPLORATION.

“A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.”  
PSALM 72: 5.

In giving the annals of the early settlers, it will be necessary to go into details, and recite the doings of the Proprietors and early settlers at some length. And here the author would renew his acknowledgment of indebtedness to Mr. Hyde and Dr. Whiton, for the aid they have rendered in making the early history of the town accessible. Nothing however, has been received on their authority. Every historical fact has been verified from the original authorities.

It is probable that hunters from the lower towns passed through the forests which then covered all our territory, in the early part of the last century; and perhaps prior to that time; but if so, they left no account of their wanderings for our information. In the time of “Lovewell’s war,” as it was called, from 1722 to 1725, scouts of soldiers traversed this region of country, but it is not certain that they crossed our boundaries. The first date which seems to connect a white man with Winchendon, is 1724, when Jabez Fairbanks led a scouting party from Groton, (then including Harvard,) to the Watatic mountains, Monomonauk pond, and the Pack, or little Monadnauk, east of Peterborough, N. H. It is not known for certainty that Fairbanks and his party struck the east side of our great pond or lake, below the state line; but considering the lay of the land, and the direction of his route, it is more than probable. The Indians used the water of the “Yellow Spring” medicinally, and it is supposable that

they had paths or trails to the Spring, from east to west. We may suppose that they moved from Groton, along southward of Watatic, in a westerly course, until they reached the lower end of the lake, by which they were deflected northwards towards Peterborough, whence they passed over the New Ipswich or Temple hills, and so returned to their homes.

During the peace which prevailed for the most part, between 1725 and 1744, many settlements were made in the neighborhood, as in Fitchburg, Westminster, Athol, Swansey, Keene, Peterborough and New Ipswich; but for some years later, the territory now comprising the towns of Ashburnham, Gardner, Royalston, Winchendon, Fitzwilliam, Rindge and Jaffrey, remained an almost unbroken wilderness.

In 1735 this township of land was granted by the colony of Massachusetts, to certain citizens of Ipswich, in Essex county. The proceedings of the General Court, making the grant, are inserted here, as found in the Records of the Original Proprietors of Ipswich Canada.

“At a Great and General Court, in and for His Majesty’s Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, begun and held in Boston, on Wednesday, the twenty-eighth day of May, 1735, and continued by several adjournments to Wednesday, the nineteenth of November following.

In the House of Representatives, June 10, 1735, in answer to the petition of Lieut. Abraham Tilton and others,

*Voted*, That a Tract of Land of the contents of six miles square, be laid out in a suitable place in the western part of this Province, and that the whole of the Town be laid out into sixty-three shares; one of which to be for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry, and one for the school; and that on the other sixty shares there be sixty admitted; and in the admission thereof preference to be given to the Petitioners, and such as are the descendants of the officers and soldiers who served in the expedition to Canada in the year 1690, viz: a Tract of Land for a Township to the said Abraham Tilton and others. And inasmuch as the officers and soldiers (who served in that expedition) were very great sufferers, and underwent uncommon hardships,

*Voted*, that this Province be at the whole charge of laying said Township in a regular manner, and of admitting the settlers; that the settlers or Grantees hereby are obliged to bring forward the settlement of said Township in as regular and defensible a manner as the situation and circumstances of the place will admit of, and that in the following manner, viz: That they be on the granted premises, and have each of them a house of eighteen feet square

and seven feet stud at the least ; That each Right or Grant have six acres of land brought to, ploughed or brought to English grass, and fitted for mowing: that they settle in the plantation or township a learned and orthodox Minister, and build a convenient Meeting-house for the public worship of God in the township: the whole of these conditions to be duly complied with within five years from the confirmation of the Plat. And that Capt. John Hobson and Capt. John Choate, with such as the Honorable Board shall appoint, be a Committee for laying out the Township hereby granted to Abraham Tilton and others, and admitting the settlers as aforesaid, who shall take bond of each grantee to the value of twenty pounds to the Province Treasurer for the respective grantees' fulfilment of the conditions of their grant. Each lot as aforesaid to be entitled to, and draw future divisions in equal proportions in the township or plantation: and that the Committee return the Plat of the said township to the Court, within twelve months for confirmation, as also the list of the names of the grantees, and their place of residence, into the Secretary's office, that so the same may be examined and regulated by a Committee that may be hereafter appointed by this Court. And further, it is hereby ordered, that in case any of the grantees shall neglect or delay to fulfil the terms of the grant, such person or persons shall forfeit to the Province all his or their right and interest in the land hereby granted.

Sent up for concurrence,

J. QUINCY, *Speaker*.

In Council, June 18th, 1735.

Read and Concurred and Ordered, that Thomas Berry, Esq., be joined to the Committee for laying out the Township.

J. WILLARD, *Secretary*.

Dec. 29, Consented to,

J. BELCHER.

A true Copy,

Examined,

THADS. MASON, *Dept. Sec'y*.

A true Copy, Attest,

THOS. NORTON, JUN., *Pro. Clerk*.

The origin of the above-cited grant was as follows, as may be found in the old histories. Many soldiers went from this colony, on the ill-fated expedition to Quebec in 1690. The surviving officers and soldiers, or their descendants, petitioned the General Court for a grant of land, as a partial compensation for their sufferings and losses in that expedition. The petition was granted, and to those surviving men, who lived in Ipswich, or in case of their decease, to their heirs, was

given the territory of Winchendon, under the title of "Ipswich Canada." Ashburnham was styled "Dorchester Canada," Rindge, "Rowley Canada," and Peterborough, "Salem Canada." In this measure, Lieut. Abraham Tilton, believed to have been a surviving officer in the old Canada expedition, appears to have taken the lead. His name heads the list of grantees, and he is called the "father of the petition."

The act making the grant, appointed Hon. Thomas Berry, Capt. John Hobson, and Capt. John Choate, a committee to admit grantees, and to locate the township. The next step is indicated by the following action of the General Court.

"In the House of Representatives, March 27, 1736,

*Ordered*, That Thomas Berry, Esq., be fully authorized and empowered to assemble and convene the Proprietors and Grantees in Canada Township, on the petition of Abraham Tilton and others of Ipswich, &c., in some suitable place and convenient time, to choose a Proprietors' Clerk, and pass such Votes and Orders as they may think necessary for the regular carrying on the settlement of the said Township, agreeable to the conditions of their grant, and to agree how meetings shall be called for the future."

In April, 13th, 1736, the Committee appointed in the grant, allowed the claims of sixty persons, of whom fifty-two were of Ipswich, to be grantees and proprietors. The action of this committee is given in the following extract from the Proprietors' Book.

"*Essex, ss.* At a Meeting of the Committee appointed by the General Court for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, to lay out a Township of the contents of six miles square, in answer to a petition of Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, Anno 1690, the following persons were admitted as Grantees of said Township, and gave bonds to fulfil the Court's Order thereon.

Ipswich, April 13th, 1736.

| RIGHT ENTERED ON.         | NAME.                      | ABODE.   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Father, -----             | Thomas Berry, Esq., -----  | Ipswich. |
| Own, -----                | Jonathan Wade, Esq., ----- | Ipswich. |
| Own, -----                | John Harris, -----         | Ipswich. |
| Own, -----                | Thomas Hovey, -----        | Ipswich. |
| Own, -----                | Abraham Perkins, -----     | Ipswich. |
| Husband and Father, ----- | Widow Rachel Rust, -----   | Ipswich. |
| Own, -----                | Abraham Tilton. -----      | Ipswich. |

| RIGHT ENTERED ON.           | NAME.  | ABODE.      |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Own, -----                  | Benjamin White, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Own, -----                  | Samuel Poland, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother John, -----         | Thomas Lufkin, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother Jacob, -----        | { Thomas Lufkin is<br>next friend to<br>Mary Lufkin, }                       | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle Benedictus, -----     | Ebenezer Pulcepher, -----  | Gloucester. |
| Father Moses, -----         | Jabez Sweet, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | Solomon Giddinge, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Brother William, -----      | Joseph Goodhue, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | William Haskell, -----   | Gloucester. |
| Brother Thomas, -----       | John Ring, -----   | Gloucester. |
| Uncle Joseph, -----         | Benjamin Chadwell, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother John, -----         | Edward Nealand, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle D. Denison, -----     | { Nath. Rogers as Guar-<br>dian to Jno. Jenison, }                           | Ipswich.    |
| Wife's Father Durgee, ----- | John Martin, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Father Servant, -----       | Isaac Knowlton, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | John Thompson, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle Joseph, -----         | { John Wood in the room<br>of and by the consent<br>of his father, }         | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | { John Downing, by Ed.<br>Eveleth his Attorney, }                            | Boston.     |
| Own, -----                  | Thomas Berrin, -----   | Rowley.     |
| Own, -----                  | David Low, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle Moses Pierce, -----   | Moses Wells, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother Thomas, -----       | George Hart, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | William Cogswell, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Brother Elisha, -----       | Thomas Tredwell, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother Benjamin, -----     | Jonathan Jewett, Jun., -----   | Rowley.     |
| Father's, -----             | Robert Cross, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Own, -----                  | Adam Cogswell, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle, -----                | Benjamin Chadwell, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Father Whipple, -----       | The Hon. Simonds Epes, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Uncle Freeman, -----        | Nathaniel Clark, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Brother George, -----       | Nathaniel Clark, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Dil. Caldwell, -----        | { Capt. Edward Eveleth by<br>and at the request of<br>Dillingham Caldwell, } | Ipswich.    |
| Brother William, -----      | Nathaniel Caldwell, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| Father, -----               | Henry Wise, -----  | Ipswich.    |
| John Ayres, -----           | { Thomas Norton, Jun., at<br>the request of Samuel<br>Ayres, a Petitioner, } | Ipswich.    |
| Own, -----                  | John Ross, -----   | Ipswich.    |
| Father's, -----             | Isaac Giddinge, -----  | Ipswich.    |

| RIGHT ENTERED ON.    | NAME.   | ABODE.        |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| Thomas Metcalf,----- | { Edward Eveleth at the<br>request of Jos. Metcalf<br>a Petitioner, | -----Ipswich. |
| Father's,-----       | Moses Davis,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Grandfather,-----    | Ephraim Fitts,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Pearce,-----         | Thomas Boardman,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| -----                | Edward Chapman,-----  | Ipswich.      |
| -----                | John Goodhue,-----  | Ipswich.      |
| Uncle Isaac,-----    | Abraham Foster, Jun.,-----  | Ipswich.      |
| Major Ward,-----     | Doct. Nicholas Noyes,-----  | Andover.      |
| Father's,-----       | John Pindar,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Uncle Samuel,-----   | Nathaniel Lord,-----  | Ipswich.      |
| Uncle Edmond,-----   | Samuel Ingalls,-----  | Ipswich.      |
| Brother Aaron,-----  | Moses Kimball,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Uncle Cheney,-----   | John Leighton,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Rob't Nelson,-----   | Joseph Annable,-----  | Beverly.      |
| Math. Hooker,-----   | Widow Mary Hooker,-----   | Ipswich.      |
| Uncle Saund,-----    | { Thomas Lord, Jun., at<br>his Father, Jno. Lord's<br>request,      | -----Ipswich. |

The above-named proprietors met on the 31st of May, and chose Thomas Norton, Jr., a graduate of Harvard, and Preceptor of the Grammar School in Ipswich, as their Clerk. The warrant calling the meeting is given in a note at the bottom of the page.\* No apology can be needed for giving the proceedings of the first Meeting of the "Proprietors and Grantees," in full, in the body of this narrative. The record, copied from the Proprietors' Book, is as follows:—

"At a legal meeting of the Proprietors and Grantees of the new Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada Anno 1690, at the Town house in Ipswich on Monday the 31st day of May, Anno Domini 1736.

*Voted.* That Col. Thomas Berry be Moderator.

*Voted,* That Thomas Norton, Jun., be Clerk to the Proprietors: and he

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\* "The Proprietors and Grantees of the new Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada Anno 1690, are hereby notified and warned to assemble and meet at the Town-house in Ipswich, on Monday the thirty-first day of instant May at four of the clock afternoon, then and there to choose a Proprietor's Clerk. and to pass such votes and orders as may be thought most proper for bringing forward the said Township agreeable to the General Court's order. And to agree how to call meetings of said Proprietors for the future.

THOMAS BERRY, per order.

Dated at Ipswich, May 20th, 1736."

was sworn to the faithful discharge of his office, by Thomas Berry, Esq., at the same time.

*Voted*, That any two of the Committee, viz: Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. John Choate, and Capt. John Hobson, be empowered to employ two men to burn the woods, if according to their discretion, they shall think it best.

*Voted*, That any five of the Proprietors or Grantees shall have power to call a Meeting, and five days from the date of the notification shall be a sufficient warning.

*Voted*, That this meeting be dissolved: and the Moderator declared the Meeting dissolved accordingly.

ATTEST:

THOS. NORTON, JUN., *Pro. Clerk.*

In June of this year, the "Court's Committee" consisting of Messrs. Berry, Hobson, (or Hopson,) and Choate, already mentioned, "went up the country," located the township, and designated its boundaries. It is probable that this Committee made a report in writing, to the General Court; but there is no trace of it, except in its results, in the Records of the town.

From this time, when we fix the first authentic date of the advent of white men to this place, there was an interval of thirteen or fourteen years before a settlement was actually made. The proprietors had various meetings in Ipswich, and took measures to lot out the land, but the troubled condition of the country prevented settlement. At one of these meetings, held on the 28th of June, 1736, Capt. Edward Eveleth, Lieut. Solomon Giddinge, Mr. Wm. Cogswell, Mr. John Martin, and Mr. Isaac Giddinge, were appointed a "Committee to go and view the land, and see the qualifications thereof, and report to the Proprietors as soon as may be." Their guide was Thomas Bennet, probably an old hunter and trapper, familiar with the region.

At another meeting, held on the fourth day of November, following; Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. Edward Eveleth, and Lieut. Abraham Tilton were chosen a Committee "to lot and lay out the first division, which is not to be under fifty acres, and not to exceed a hundred." Jonathan Wade, Esq., was chosen Treasurer, and an assessment of three pounds, on each Proprietor, was laid, to defray charges. On the sixth of May, 1737, a meeting was held, at which Col. Thomas Berry, Thomas Norton, Jun., and Mr. Henry Wise, were chosen Assessors, and Capt. Edward Eveleth, and Mr. William Cogswell, Collectors.



This year Jeremiah Hall was employed by the people of Keene to lay out a road from that place to Townsend and Lunenburg. It passed through this place, and was a mere horse path, indicated by marked trees.

The next meeting was held on the 27th of October, 1637, and as this was a meeting of great importance, in its results; and as it sheds much light on the state of things at the time, it will be inserted in full. The warrant is as follows:

*“Essex, ss.* To Mr. Thomas Norton. Jun., Clerk of the Proprietors of the Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, 1690.

You are hereby required to notify and warn the Grantees and Proprietors of the Township lately granted to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada Anno 1690, that they assemble and meet at the house of Mr. Nath'l Tredwell inn-holder in Ipswich, on Thursday the 27th day of October current, at 4 of the clock afternoon, then and there to receive the return of the Committee appointed to lay out the first division of lots, and subdivide the same or part of them, if the Proprietors shall think best.

2. To make proper and suitable provision for ways through said lots.
3. To agree upon some method for clearing to the centre of the first division of lots, or where they shall agree upon to set the first Meeting-house.
4. To fix upon the place to erect and build a Meeting-house, and to reserve a sufficient quantity of land out of some of the lots for a training field and burying place.
5. To make proper allowance to the person who may draw the lot out of which the aforesaid reserves may be made.
6. To give liberty to such of the Proprietors as may draw a lot not accommodable for settling, to make a second draft out of the supernumerary lots that are laid out.
7. To make suitable provision for the erecting and building of a Saw-mill.
8. To give such encouragement to the Grantee who shall build, agreeable to the General Court's order, the first dwelling-house of 18 feet in length and 7 feet stud, as shall be judged necessary and convenient.
9. For each Grantee to draw his lot in the first division now laid out; and such of them as have not already paid the three pounds voted at the last Meeting, to defray the charge of laying out the lots, pay the same before they be allowed to draw their lots.
10. To take some proper method to obtain leave of the General Court to

dispose of lots that may be lost to any of the Grantees who shall neglect and refuse to pay the charge that hath already arisen in laying out the lots and otherways.

11. To settle and adjust accounts with such persons to whom the Grantees and Proprietors are indebted.

THOMAS BERRY,  
EDWARD EVELETH,  
ABRAHAM TILTON,  
HENRY WISE,  
JONATHAN WADE.

Dated Ipswich, Oct. 22d, 1737."

Then follows the return of Mr. Norton, the Clerk, certifying that he had given due notice, after which we find the following record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

"At a legal Meeting of the Proprietors of the Township lately granted by the General Court to Mr. Abraham Tilton and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, Anno Domini, 1690, at the house of Mr. Nath'l Tredwell in Ipswich on Thursday the 27th of Oct., 1737.

*Voted*, That Col. Thomas Berry be Moderator.

*Voted*, That the return of the Committee appointed to lay out the first division of lots be accepted and recorded, being a hundred acres in each lot.

*Voted*, That the land left for ways be reserved for the Proprietors' use and service, as they shall order and direct.

*Voted*, That 5 acres be reserved out of No. 1 in the South division, for building a Meeting-house on, a burying place and training field. And that an equivalent be allowed out of lot No. 30, in the South division, to the Proprietor drawing lot No. 1.

*Voted*, That there be a road cut from Earlington, [in Northfield,] as near as may be to the Meeting-house lot, at the charge of the Proprietors.

*Voted*, That liberty may be given to such of the Proprietors as may draw a lot not accommodable for settling, to make a second draft out of the super-numerary lots that are already laid out; if not in them, then in the undivided lands, at his own charge that desires it.

*Voted*, That the use of the streams running through the Township be reserved to the Proprietors, and they shall have liberty to set up such mills as they shall think necessary for the Proprietors for six years to come. The person through whose land the stream shall pass, to erect a mill if he think proper: but on his refusal, the Proprietors may and shall dispose thereof as they shall think best, without making any other allowance to the Proprietor

of said lot than for such damages as may be done on his land, but none for the stream. And that no mill be erected on said Township, but by the allowance of the Proprietors, for the aforesaid term of six years.

*Voted*, That the sum of twenty pounds be allowed and paid out of the Proprietors' treasury to each of the three Grantees who shall first build three houses in the Township, agreeable to the General Court's act, and have a family settled in them; provided the family be settled there on or before the last of October next.

*Voted*, That each Grantee pay the sum of three pounds before he be allowed to draw his lot.

*Voted*, That Mr. Abraham Tilton, the father of the Petition, be allowed to choose his lot.\*

*Voted*, That the lots No. 14 and 15 in the south division be reserved for the Proprietors' order.

*Voted*, That the lot No. 1, in the north division be the Ministry or Parsonage lot.

*Voted*, That the lot No. 31 in the south division be the Minister's lot.

*Voted*, That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday the third of Nov. next, at four of the clock afternoon, to meet at this place."

Here follows a list of the proprietors, and of each right drawn for each proprietor, according to the plan reported by the Committee appointed Nov 4th, 1736. This was the *first* division. To accompany this list of proprietors, a *fac simile* of the plan, as found in the Record Book of the Proprietors, has been carefully prepared. This is a most valuable addition to the History of the town, as it enables the reader to see just where the rights of those who became proprietors by the first and second divisions of the town were located. Only a part of the town was divided into lots, on the first plot. Those bounded by the black line composed the first division. In the first plot, the numbering was from 1 to 36, south division, and from 1 to 35, north division. When filled up, the remainder was divided into lots numbering from 1 to 194. When Royalston leg was annexed, the numbers of the lots were from 96 to 113. The second division will be found on a subsequent page.

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\* He chose the lot No. 30, in the north division.

## FIRST DIVISION.

| NAMES.                        | RIGHTS. | NAMES.                        | RIGHTS. |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Lt. Abraham Tilton,---N. D.   | No. 30  | Isaac Giddinge,-----N. D.     | No. 5   |
| Thomas Lord, Jun.,---S. D.    | No. 26  | Thos. Boardman,----N. D.      | No. 32  |
| Moses Davis,-----S. D.        | No. 27  | Thos. Tredwell,-----S. D.     | No. 34  |
| Widow Mary Hooker,---N. D.    | No. 17  | Nath'l Tredwell,-----N. D.    | No. 31  |
| Isaac Knowlton,-----S. D.     | No. 16  | Hon. Thomas Berry, { S. D.    | No. 2   |
| Edward Eveleth,-----N. D.     | No. 35  | Esq. }                        |         |
| John Ring,-----N. D.          | No. 25  | Jonathan Jewett, Jr.,---S. D. | No. 35  |
| John Martin,-----N. D.        | No. 12  | Joseph Annable,-----N. D.     | No. 28  |
| Rev. Nath'l Rogers, { N. D.   | No. 6   | Henry Wise,-----N. D.         | No. 19  |
| for J. Denison, } }           |         | Joseph Goodhue,-----S. D.     | No. 20  |
| George Hart,-----N. D.        | No. 22  | John Goodhue,-----N. D.       | No. 29  |
| John Leighton,-----S. D.      | No. 9   | Moses Kimball,-----S. D.      | No. 5   |
| Edward Chapman,---N. D.       | No. 2   | Adam Cogswell,-----S. D.      | No. 18  |
| John Pindar,-----N. D.        | No. 23  | Ephraim Fitts,-----S. D.      | No. 10  |
| Benj. Chadwell,-----N. D.     | No. 26  | John Downing,-----N. D.       | No. 4   |
| David Low,-----N. D.          | No. 8   | Thos. Hovey,-----N. D.        | No. 21  |
| Benjamin Chadwell,---N. D.    | No. 15  | School,-----N. D.             | No. 10  |
| John Ross,-----N. D.          | No. 18  | Nath'l Clark,-----N. D.       | No. 7   |
| Edward Nealand,-----S. D.     | No.     | Samuel Poland,-----N. D.      | No. 18  |
| John Wood,-----S. D.          | No.     | Abraham Perkins,---N. D.      | No. 33  |
| Moses Welles,-----N. D.       | No. 3   | Jabez Sweet,-----S. D.        | No. 13  |
| Edward Eveleth,-----S. D.     | No. 7   | Benj. White,-----S. D.        | No. 11  |
| Widow Rachel Rust,---S. D.    | No. 3   | John Thompson,-----S. D.      | No. 30  |
| William Cogswell,---S. D.     | No. 23  | Jonathan Wade, Esq.,---N. D.  | No. 4   |
| Samuel Ingalls,-----N. D.     | No. 24  | Thos. Lufkin,-----N. D.       | No. 16  |
| Hon. Simonds Epes, { S. D.    | No. 4   | John Harris,-----N. D.        | No. 27  |
| Esq., }                       |         | Solomon Giddinge,---S. D.     | No. 22  |
| Doct. Nicholas Noyes,---S. D. | No. 12  | Wm. Haskell,-----S. D.        | No. 29  |
| Thos. Norton, Jr.,---S. D.    | No. 25  | Ebenezer Pulcepher,---S. D.   | No. 32  |
| Thomas Perrin,-----N. D.      | No. 14  | Nath'l Clark,-----S. D.       | No. 36  |
| Robert Cross,-----N. D.       | No. 20  | Abraham Foster, Jr.,---S. D.  | No. 6   |
| Thos. Lufkin,-----S. D.       | No. 33  | Nath'l Lord,-----N. D.        | No. 34  |

The meeting at which the above allotment was made, was adjourned to the 3d of November, when certain accounts were allowed, which are considered of sufficient interest to be placed in a note.\*

\* " *The Proprietors of the Township,* To THOMAS BERRY, Dr.  
1736, March.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| To a Book of Records,   | £1, 10, 0 |
| To a journey to Lancaster to secure the laying out of the Town-<br>ship, expense, horse, &c., | 5, 00, 0  |
| To 1 day's attendance on the Grantees and admitting,  | 0, 15, 0  |
| To $\frac{1}{2}$ day in said service,   | 0, 07, 6  |
| To a copy of the Plan K., from the Sec'y's office,  | 0, 15, 0  |
| To a journey and service in laying out the lots, expenses, &c.,                               | 5, 00, 0  |
| Errors excepted,  |           |

PR. THOMAS BERRY.

Meetings with reference to erecting a meeting-house, laying out roads, and building mills and bridges, were held in 1737, 1738, and 1742. These matters will be referred to in their proper place, more at length.

An incident may be recorded here, which has no precise date, but which tradition sanctions. During the years whose record has

*The Proprietors, &c., To JOHN HOBSON, Esq.,*

*Dr.*

To 1 day's attendance admitting Grantees, £0, 15, 0

*Voted*, That the acc'ts of Col. Thomas Berry, and John Hobson, Esq., above written, be allowed and paid out of the Proprietors' treasury to them in full discharge thereof.

IPSWICH CANADA GRANTEES,

*Dr.*

1736.

Paid to the Deputy Sec'y for copies, £0, 10, 0

To 1½ days' attendance in admitting Grantees, 1, 02, 6

To a journey up the country, horse and expenses included, 5, 00, 6

Total, £6, 13, 0

Errors excepted,

JOHN CHOATE."

The above account was allowed, and the sum of £61, 6, was voted to Thomas Berry, Esq., in discharge of the accounts of Messrs. Wheeler, Parker, Wetherbee, Richardson, Bellows, and the two surveyors, for laying out the first division in the Township.

"Oct. 27, 1737. THE COMMUNITY OF IPSWICH CANADA,

*Dr.*

To Abraham Tilton for 17 days' work at 15s pr. day, £12, 15, 0"

This account was allowed, and also 13s per day to the following persons who assisted in lotting out the Township. 17 days each; viz, John Martin, Isaac Martin, Thomas Brown, Francis Goodhue, and John Martin, Jr., amounting to £11, 1, to each of them.

"*Voted*, That six pounds be allowed and paid out of the treasury to such Proprietor as shall cut a horse way from Earlington road to the Meeting-house lot.

*Voted*, That the sum of £3. 03, 2. the expenses of the house, be allowed and paid out of the treasury to Mr. Nath'l Tredwell."

"THE PROPRIETORS, &c.,

*Dr.*

To the Committee that went to view the Township, viz, Edward Eveleth, Abraham Tilton, Solomon Giddinge, John Martin, and Isaac Giddinge, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1736, 9 days each at 15s pr. day,

£33, 15, 0

To paid John Bennet the pilot, 3, 00, 0

Total, £36, 15, 0

Errors excepted,

EDWARD EVELETH."

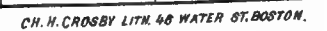
This account was allowed, and at an adjourned meeting "liberty was granted to draw John Downing's lot, but not to be recorded till he shall have paid his three pounds."

just been given, visits were made from time to time, by the grantees; to their wild lands. On one of these excursions, a man named Denison, supposed to be a descendant of Maj. Gen. Denison, famed in the early history of Massachusetts, "being lost in the woods," says Dr. Whiton, "climbed a tree to command a wider range of prospect, and thus discovered the gleaming waters of the beautiful lake in the southwest part of the town, which after him took the name of Denison pond." Let this be noted, that the common error in spelling the name may be corrected. In one map it is called Denace, and in another, Dennis pond. Mr. Hyde's history gives it correctly. Denison might well have been pleased with the incident, though perplexing at the time, if he could have foreseen that his name was to be forever associated with this charming little lake.

In 1740, the true boundary line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts was run, when it was found that a strip of land on the north end of this town, about a mile in width, which had been included in the bounds of N. H., really belonged to the elder colony. But for some unaccountable reason, this strip was given to Royalston, and was known as "Royalston leg." Subsequently it was annexed to Winchendon, and it includes all the northern part of the town, about a mile wide.

In the year 1742, a second division of lots was voted, but it does not appear to have been made before 1761. By this division, each original holder, or his successor by inheritance or purchase, drew by lottery, three lots. The arrangement was as follows: but the reader must bear in mind that in the plot the same number in several cases, is marked on two or three different lots, and therefore when one of these numbers is repeated below, it does not refer to a lot bearing that number already appropriated. For example, No. 2, north division was assigned to Edward Chapman, and No. 2, south division, to Thomas Berry, at the first division of lots. It follows that the No. 2, drawn by John Goodhue in the last division of the lots, was a third No. 2. The reader will notice that the first division—surrounded by the heavy black line—was divided into north and south divisions. This is indicated on the right or east side of the Plan by the letters N. and S.

*Laid down upon a Scale of  
240 Rods to an Inch.*



→  
-  
●  
\*  
\*

10



## SECOND DIVISION.

| NAMES.               | RIGHTS.       | NAMES.                 | RIGHTS.       |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Abraham Tilton,----- | 71, 157, 156  | Nath'l Caldwell,-----  | 137, 51, 5    |
| Thomas Lord,-----    | 176, 165, 42  | Tho. Berry,-----       | 92, 135, 141  |
| Moses Davis,-----    | 80, 39, 179   | Jonathan Jewet,-----   | 43, 73, 52    |
| Mary Hooker,-----    | 47, 184, 9    | Joseph Annable,-----   | 91, 75, 11    |
| Edward Eveleth,----- | 37, 162, 104  | Henry Wise,-----       | 172, 82, 24   |
| John Ring,-----      | 19, 97, 76    | Joseph Goodhue,-----   | 123, 110, 188 |
| John Martin,-----    | 164, 22, 149  | John Goodhue,-----     | 2, 127, 96    |
| Nathaniel Rogers,--  | 35, 153, 94   | Moses Kimball,-----    | 180, 155, 131 |
| Isaac Knowlton,----- | 48, 23, 136   | Adam Cogswell,-----    | 59, 126, 145  |
| George Hart,-----    | 181, 44, 130  | Ephraim Fitts,-----    | 49, 112, 163  |
| John Lighton,-----   | 69, 40, 95    | John Downing,-----     | 99, 60, 26    |
| Edward Chapman,--    | 15, 86, 154   | Tho. Hovey,-----       | 122, 79, 61   |
| John Pindar,-----    | 174, 115, 132 | School Lots,-----      | 193, 170, 70  |
| Benjamin Chadwell,-- | 169, 152, 133 | Nathaniel Clark,-----  | 27, 10, 84    |
| David Low,-----      | 87, 175, 93   | Samuel Poland,-----    | 111, 16, 89   |
| John Ross,-----      | 38, 34, 62    | Abram Perkins,-----    | 28, 66, 67    |
| Edward Nealand,----- | 178, 160, 151 | Jabez Sweet,-----      | 68, 161, 53   |
| John Wood,-----      | 83, 139, 64   | Benjamin White,-----   | 121, 182, 20  |
| Moses Welles,-----   | 81, 150, 187  | John Thomson,-----     | 58, 143, 144  |
| Edward Eveleth,----- | 167, 102, 148 | Jonathan Wade,-----    | 36, 6, 128    |
| Rachel Rust,-----    | 50, 77, 142   | Tho. Lufkin,-----      | 85, 4, 56     |
| William Cogswell,--  | 117, 171, 166 | John Haris,-----       | 63, 31, 13    |
| Samuel Ingalls,----- | 159, 119, 46  | Solomon Giddings,--    | 57, 147, 125  |
| Simond Epes,-----    | 114, 17, 98   | William Haskell,-----  | 194, 109, 105 |
| Nichols Noys,-----   | 45, 88, 158   | Eben'r Pulcepher,--    | 54, 186, 55   |
| Tho. Norton,-----    | 168, 72, 1    | Nath'l Clark,-----     | 32, 177, 41   |
| Tho. Perring,-----   | 18, 146, 124  | Abram Foster,-----     | 12, 103, 29   |
| Robert Cross,-----   | 120, 116, 8   | Nath'l Lord,-----      | 107, 140, 134 |
| Tho. Lufkin,-----    | 101, 78, 113  | Benj. Chadwell,-----   | 25, 173, 138  |
| Isaac Giddings,----- | 106, 118, 90  | Minister's Lots,-----  | 74, 65, 185   |
| Tho. Boardman,-----  | 7, 33, 183    | Ministerial Lots,----- | 108, 21, 3    |
| Tho. Tredwell,-----  | 100, 129, 14  |                        |               |

## SECTION 2.—SETTLEMENT.

About nine years passed away. At length, in 1751, the "Old French and Indian war," as it is known in history, having been brought to a close about two years previously, the Proprietors made new efforts to effect a real settlement. They sent up a committee to run the lines and renew the bounds between this and the adjoining townships. They were also directed "to take care of the mill irons, and to see what condition the meeting-house and mill are in." Bridle paths had been opened through the woods; the territory had been

traversed in every direction; and the way was opened for settlers. And now, on the 29th of January, 1752, the Proprietors took a decisive step, which led to actual results. They voted £100, "old tenor," equivalent to about forty-four silver dollars, to each one of the first ten men who should by the first of November next, build a dwelling-house, and settle a family in the township. The result was, ten families erected log houses, and planted themselves here, this season, some of whom stood their ground through the perils of the next French and Indian war, which soon began to rage. The following extract from the Proprietors' Book will be read with interest, as it shows who were engaged in the actual settlement.

- " March 10, 1752. Thomas Brown sent his claim to be received for one of the first settlers. 1.  
                                 Edward Eveleth enters his claim for two of the first settling families. 2.  
 " 16, " Ezekiel Jewett enters his claim for one of the first settlers. 1.  
 " 31, " The Hon. Thomas Berry put in his claim for two settling families. 2.  
 April 4, " Thomas Brown desires the privilege of being admitted for two more settling rights. 2.  
 " 18, " Col. Tho. Berry claims a privilege for one more of the first settling families. 1.  
 " 23, " Edward Eveleth desires the privilege for one more settling family." 1.

The next year, 1753, the settlers put up a small frame of a meeting-house, a few rods south of the old burying ground, this spot having been originally selected as the centre. That frame was never occupied for public worship, nor even enclosed; but was soon sold, on conviction that the present centre common—on "the hill"—was a better site for a meeting-house and training field. But let it be recorded to their honor, that the first ten families, the year after they had built log cabins for themselves, undertook to erect a house of God.

The *names* of the first settlers will be read with increasing interest as the years of their pioneer labors recede into the past. The following list, says Dr. Whiton, is nearly correct, and in relation to most of them, certainly so. By far the most prominent man among them, was the Hon. Thomas Berry, one of the leading citizens of Ipswich, who settled on the place formerly belonging to Stephen Tolman, and now owned by Samuel Woodbury, resided there a portion of each of the





Day House, 1752.

two or three subsequent years, and then returned to Ipswich, where he died, August 12, 1756. He was thus a resident, though not legally an inhabitant of the town. Lieut. Tilton was also here, at times, and did much in effecting the settlement. Another prominent man, of considerable wealth and influence, who though he never became a resident, was a large landholder, was active in promoting the settlement, and occasionally visited his lands here, was Dr. Joseph Manning of Ipswich. His name is introduced for the sake of an amusing anecdote which occurred on one of his visits, and which will be related in connection with a name soon to be mentioned. Richard Day was a permanent settler, and built the house now owned by Mr. Josiah Dunn, more than a hundred and sixteen years since [1752]. He was the first deacon of the church, and was killed by the fall of a tree, many years afterwards. He was a useful man, and his decease was much lamented.

Thomas Wilder, supposed to have been a brother of the Hon. Abel Wilder, was a respectable man, but left the place soon, probably on account of the war.

Abijah Smith was a man of influence. He soon left, but came back after the war.

Gabriel Pushey, or Pouchey, was a French refugee from Nova Scotia or Cape Breton, lived in a fortified house on the south side of the common, and at his death, left a widow who survived to extreme old age. Some of her descendants of the seventh generation, now reside in the town. We now come to the anecdote of Dr. Manning. It is told of the old lady, then young however, that having received of the Dr., a cake of chocolate, with the direction to prepare it for him against his return to dinner, and being unwilling to acknowledge her ignorance of the article, she came to the sage conclusion that it was to be boiled with pork and potatoes. After some time, exploring the dinner pot with a fork, to see if the cake was done, she was astonished at its disappearance.

William Holt lived on or near the common, where his daughter Mary was born, Nov. 15, 1763. She was the first child born in town, was afterwards known as Mrs. Bosworth, lived on the hill in the eastern edge of Royalston, just beyond the Howard saw-mill, and died in

1847. According to tradition, there were but six women resident in the town; of course some of the first settlers were unmarried men.

John Darling was probably another of the ten, and lived on the Jason Keith farm.

William Moffat settled, it is believed, in the west part of the town.

Eight of the ten have now been named. From 1752 to 1755, Benjamin Goodridge, Thomas Jewett, Joshua Priest, David Wilder, Benoni Boynton, Nathaniel Burnham, John Moffat and John Brown, were added to the number. *Two* of these were among the original *ten*, but which of them is not now known. Some of them left during the war, but soon returned.

The first born male child in the place, was Nathan Pushey, who on this account, received from the Proprietors, when he arrived at the age of twenty-one, the donation of a lot of land, and soon after died in the revolutionary war.

In this connection, we may fix some of the first habitations of the original settlers. There were, as appears from the Records, and according to tradition, several block-houses or buildings made of hewn logs, which were occupied as garrisons or forts. One of these was on the plain near the mill in Bullardville. Another in which Mary Holt, the eldest child of the town, was born, stood near the south end of the old Meeting-house Common. This was occupied, says Mr. Hyde, by Dea. Moses Hale, as a dwelling for sometime before removing into his own dwelling-house. There was another near the east line of the farm of Mr. Jacob Hale, senior, which he occupied as a dwelling-house, within the memory of persons now living, [1868.]

A fourth was some twenty rods east of Tallow Hill school-house, near the house where the late venerable Mrs. Eddy lived. A fifth was near the spot where Mr. Samuel Woodbury now resides; and still another not far from the house now occupied by Mr. William Willoby. One of the best houses erected in the early times was built about 1752, by Dea. Richard Day. It still stands on the high ground a little west of the south end of the Common. It is a large two story house, and by care, may be occupied by generations yet to come. It was at one time owned by Rev. Mr. Brown, the second minister of the town; and at subsequent periods has been in the possession of Rev. Messrs. Malachi Bullard, John Storrs, and B. F. Clarke; now

occupied by Mr. Dunn. About the same time, a house was built on the spot now covered by the residence of Charles J. Rice, Esq. This was occupied as a tavern for many years, being convenient for townsmen and travelers, at the southeast corner of the Common. This house was kept successively by Matthew Knight, Samuel Griggs, Francis Bridge, Bemsley Lord, Joshua Gale, Luther Stimson, James McElwain and Phinehas Whitney. There was another house occupied by James Mansfield, near the old burying ground. Gabriel Pouchey, or Pushey, dwelt in a house near the southwest of the Common. Col. Thomas Berry put up a house where Dea. Desire Tolman afterwards lived.

On the 24th of October, 1753, the first Proprietors' meeting was held *within* the township, at the house of Richard Day, and adjourned to the next day, when it was voted to grant the meeting-house frame to Col Berry, on condition that he would furnish a room in his house for religious meetings.

The war alarm induced the settlers to grant £300 old tenor, for the purpose of fortifying some of the houses; at the same time a sum of money was raised to procure some supply of preaching during the ensuing winter. The proceedings of the meeting held at the house of Richard Day, Oct. 31, 1754, were as follows:

*Voted*, That something further shall be done in fortifying the township.

*Voted*, That the sum of three hundred pounds, old tenor,\* be raised in order to fortify the township: fifty pounds of which is to fortify Mr. Darling's house, and fifty pounds to fortify Mr. Boynton's house, and one hundred pounds toward defraying the acc't, of fortifying Thomas Jewett's house.

*Voted*, That Col. Thomas Berry's house shall be fortified, and that one hundred pounds, old tenor, be allowed therefor, the said Berry to pay what farther sum shall be needed to complete the garrison, which he agreed to.

*Voted*, That Col. Berry, Capt. Goodridge, and Mr. Smith be a committee to see that the garrisons are completed."

"The spring of 1755," says Dr. Whiton, "found the people in their fortified houses, of which there were some half dozen, as Berry's, Jewett's, Darling's, Boynton's, and Pushey's; two of the number so well strengthened, as to be called *forts*. About planting time the set-

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\* £100 old tenor was equal to £13, 6, 8, lawful money, and \$44.45 federal money.

tlers had certain proofs that Indians with hostile purpose were traversing the woods. Their perils will be best learned from their Petition, dated June 7, 1755, to the government of Massachusetts for protection." It is here given verbatim, a copy having been obligingly furnished by Frederic Kidder, Esq. of Boston, as found in the ancient records of the Commonwealth.

#### "PETITION OF IPSWICH CANADA.

To his Excellency William Shirley, Esq., Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay; to the Honorable, his Majesty's Council, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled; the Petition of the inhabitants of the place called Ipswich Canada, in the County of Worcester, hereby sheweth, that there are eight families of us now living in said plantation, which is at least eighteen miles from Lunenburg, the nearest place that is settled, or that can possibly afford us any help in case of an attack by the Indian enemy, which we are in daily fear of; and although the Proprietors of said plantation did in Oct. last. build two good and sufficient forts; yet we being poor and but new beginning in a very thick wooden country, and having all our provision to buy and bring from Lunenburg, Lancaster, or Groton, &c., whereby it becomes impossible for us to maintain our families and keep the forts; unless we are protected, must of necessity leave the place and go off, which we are exceedingly unwilling to do, and give ground to the enemy, having laid out all the small substance we had here, and have no where to go for refuge—if we must leave our crops now on the ground, we and our families will be finally undone. We are sensible that Indians are about us, for we hear them shoot, especially on the 28th of May we heard no less than seven guns shot in the woods above us. We scouted the next day, but made no discovery. We are all now shut up in the forts, and know not how soon we shall be beset or destroyed. Therefore your Petitioners humbly pray your Excellency and Honors would take our distressed case into your wise and compassionate consideration, and grant us relief and protection, as in your great wisdom and goodness shall seem meet. And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

(Signed,)

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| GABRIEL PUSHEY, | DAVID WILDER,      |
| RICHARD DAY,    | JOHN BROWN,        |
| THOMAS JEWETT,  | NATHANIEL BLODGET, |
| WILLIAM HOLT,   | JOSHUA PRIEST,     |
| JOHN MOFFET,    | WILLIAM MOFFET."   |



In the words of Dr. Whiton, "this simple and artless recital sets forth more impressively than any studied elegance, the fear and distress which existed among the little band who dwelt at the time in Winchendon, a fear showed by all the neighboring settlements; the people of Athol often went armed to public worship, and their pastor, Rev. Mr. Humphrey, who had been ordained in that place, 1750, carried his gun in times of alarm into his pulpit, placing it where he could lay his hand on it in a moment."

There is some traditionary evidence that the earnest petition of the feeble company of settlers for governmental protection, was not unheeded. A very aged man who died some years ago in Stoddard, N. H., used to relate, that he and a few other soldiers were for a time stationed at Winchendon; and that he once went on a scout through the woods between Ashburnham and Athol, probably following pretty nearly the course of Miller's river, and making the Pushey house their headquarters. One of these soldiers was named Robert Bradish, who afterwards became a settler, and the gun which he carried, is now in existence, and owned by Mr. Luke Rice. But no life was lost in Winchendon, and not even a drop of blood was shed, in consequence of Indian raids.

In 1758 we come to an important event, not only to the town, but especially to Winchendon Village. The Proprietors offered one hundred and twenty dollars and a lot of land, to the person or persons who should build a grist-mill in the township, keep it in repair, and grind for lawful toll for ten years. The next year, 1759, Bartholomew Pearson built the mill in the Village, a work which the people hailed with joy, and deemed a great acquisition, as it saved the hard labor of conveying their grain for grinding, on roads winding among roots and rocks, and over pole-bridges to other towns.

From 1755 to 1761, the following persons were added to the number of settlers, viz, Thomas Brown, Jacob Gould, Charles Tuttle, Henry Hodgkins, William Hodgkins, Samuel Craig, Philip Goodridge, David Poor, Joseph Fuller, Samuel Reed, Samuel Darling, Silas Darling and Timothy Darling. Some of these became permanent residents.

From the Records, dated November 1, 1759, we learn that the Proprietors voted, "That the Surveyors already chosen, John Moffat,

Jacob Gould and Richard Day, are hereby ordered to build a bridge in said township over Miller's River, on the county road to Royalshire, now Royalston, out of the money already granted by the Proprietors, according to their best skill and judgment." This bridge was beyond Waterville. In 1762, June 30, the Proprietors voted, "That sixty days highways' work shall be done in building a bridge over the river, by Mr. Pearson's mill place." This was about ten rods below where the bridge now stands, near Goodspeed & Wyman's establishment.

Before coming to the organization of the town, there is one more extract to be made from the Proprietors' Book, which, on account of its importance, will be transcribed at length. It is as follows:

"Sept. 22, 1761. *Voted*, That the Proprietors will build a meeting house in the township of Ipswich Canada.

*Voted*, That the said meeting house shall be 35 feet wide, and 45 feet long, and the length of the posts to be 22 or 23 feet.

*Voted* and chose Benjamin Goodridge, Abijah Smith and Philip Goodridge, a committee to let out the meeting house.

*Voted*, That the committee be empowered to see that the said meeting house be hewed, framed and raised, the outside boarded, shingled and clap-boarded, window sashes, and glass put up, door heads and doors be made, the lower floor be laid, and the frame be underpinned with convenient stones.

*Voted*, That the said meeting house shall be completed as aforesaid by the last day of September, 1762.

*Voted*, That the meetings be held in Ipswich Canada for the future."

In pursuance of this object another meeting was held next year, as follows:

"At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, at the house of Mr. Richard Day, inn-holder at Ipswich Canada, June 30, 1762,

*Voted*, and chose Messrs. Benjamin Goodridge, Richard Day and Bartholomew Parsons, to be a committee to view and stake out a meeting house plot."

The committee made the following report of their doings.

"Laid out five acres of land for a meeting house, training field and burying yard, on the Northwest corner of the lot No. 1, in the South division, beginning at the Northwest corner bound, running south 48 rods, on line of said lot, then easterly  $16\frac{1}{2}$  rods, then running northerly a parallel line with the West line 48 rods, and then to the place where we began.

BENJAMIN GOODRIDGE,  
BARTHOLOMEW PARSONS,  
RICHARD DAY."

On the reception of this Report the meeting voted, "That the Proprietors will accept the land laid out by the committee, on lot No. 1, South division, for the use of the meeting-house, training field and burying yard—there being reference made on said lot for that purpose by the Propriety at their meeting on the 27th of Oct., A. D. 1737—notwithstanding a former vote passed by the Proprietors at their meeting held Nov. 1, 1759, to accept of the report of the committee to set the meeting-house on lot No. 30, finding that place not accommodable. And the committee chosen to build said meeting-house, to raise the house on the plot where they judge most convenient."

The war being over, people began to flock in more rapidly. The Rev. Daniel Stimpson, and his brothers, Jonathan and Ephraim Stimpson, Abel Wilder, Daniel Goodridge, David Goodridge, Jeremiah Stuart, and Reuben Wyman, were added in 1762. Some of these, but not all of them, were from Ipswich. A meeting-house was built, and Rev. Mr. Stimpson was settled. This last event was on the 15th of December, 1762. The two preceding summers had been seasons of excessive heat and drought, cutting short the crops. Tradition says that the milk for the ordination puddings was brought in jugs from Leominster, the township having but four cows, and these at this wintry time, not affording a supply adequate to the occasion.

Having brought the story of the early settlers down to the year 1763, when measures were taken to organize a town by applying to the General Court for an act of incorporation, it is interesting to see how the formation of this little settlement was connected with general history. England and France contended for the mastery of North America, at intervals, for more than a century, and the history of the colonies, and almost every town in the colonies, was mixed up with the contentions of those transatlantic nations. The fortunes of Winchendon were involved in the wars of those times. Its origin was the expedition of 1690. The colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York combined to capture the Gibraltar of America. The Bay Colony fitted out a fleet, under the command of Sir William Phipps, while the other colonies sent an army. Their forces were to combine in an attack on Quebec, by land and water. The scheme failed, but not its consequences, one of which was the grant of territory composing this township, and its final settlement. The people of Ipswich

sent its quota of men on this expedition, and more than forty years later, the survivors of these heroes, and the heirs of those who had died during the long interval, petitioned the General Court for a grant of land, as a partial compensation of their losses and sufferings. The petition was granted, and in due time, the grant was settled by the people of Ipswich.

But there could be no settlement for many years, on account of the unsettled condition of the frontier. Queen Anne's wars, in her brief reign, and Lovewell's war in 1725, retarded settlements in places nearer the Atlantic towns than this wild region. An effort was made to begin a settlement, as already related, in 1735-42, but very little progress was made, when the war of 1744-48, sometimes called "King George's war," or the "old French and Indian war," put an end to all attempts at settlement. There was no meeting of the Proprietors from 1742 to 1751, when new measures were taken to bring in settlers. A few began to cut an opening in the forest in 1752, in which year eight or ten men gained a foothold. But the war of 1754-63, commonly called the "last French and Indian war," retarded the growth of the settlement. Some left the place, while others remained in garrison. From 1753 to 1762, only about twenty-two or three men had joined the company as owners or settlers. Several of these never gained a legal residence, and several of the remainder departed never to return.

At length in 1759, Wolfe captured Quebec, and the conquest of North America was secured, though peace was not declared till 1763. Perhaps there were ten or twelve families here in 1761, when the fighting in the northern colonies was over; from which time the settlers came in more rapidly. By 1764, when the town was incorporated, twenty-one men, most of them probably at the head of families, had joined themselves to the earlier settlers who still remained on the ground. The names of all the men who had effected a settlement here by the close of 1764 are here inserted in the order of the date of their settlement. It must not be forgotten however that some of the men herein named had already left the place, while others had probably never become settlers in the proper sense of the word, but were proprietors, and interested in the gathering of a township. Some were here a year or two before the coming of their families. The list with the dates must be taken as an approximation to the true state of the facts.

## FIRST SETTLERS.

|                            |       |                                |       |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| † Richard Day,-----        | 1753, | † David Poor,-----             | 1758, |
| * † Thomas Wilder,-----    | "     | Samuel Hunt,-----              | "     |
| † * Abijah Smith,-----     | "     | Francis Goodhue,-----          | "     |
| † Benjamin Goodridge,----- | "     | Joseph Fuller,-----            | "     |
| † William Moffat,-----     | "     | Daniel Goodridge,-----         | "     |
| William Holt,-----         | "     | David Goodridge,-----          | "     |
| * Thomas Berry,-----       | 1754, | John Dunsmore,-----            | "     |
| * Abraham Tilton,-----     | "     | William Brown,-----            | 1759, |
| * Thomas Manning,-----     | "     | Mr. Harvey was here preaching, | "     |
| * Thomas Jewett,-----      | "     | Ebenezer Sherwin, or Sherry,-- | "     |
| Joshua Priest,-----        | "     | Samuel Titus,-----             | 1761, |
| John Darling,-----         | "     | Timothy Darling,-----          | "     |
| David Wilder,-----         | "     | Rev. Daniel Stimson,-----      | 1762, |
| Benoni Boynton,-----       | "     | Jonathan Stimson,-----         | "     |
| Nathaniel Blodget,-----    | "     | Ephraim Stimson,-----          | "     |
| Thomas Brown,-----         | 1755, | Abel Wilder,-----              | "     |
| † John Moffatt,-----       | "     | Bartholomew Pearson,-----      | "     |
| Jacob Gould,-----          | "     | Jeremiah Stuart,-----          | "     |
| † * Nathaniel Burnam,----- | "     | Ephraim Boynton,-----          | "     |
| * Charles Tuttle,-----     | 1756, | Reuben Wyman,-----             | "     |
| † Henry Hodgkins,-----     | 1757, | Thomas Sweetland,-----         | 1763, |
| † Joseph Tuttle,-----      | "     | Daniel Bixby,-----             | "     |
| † Samuel Craig,-----       | "     | Theophilus Mansfield,-----     | 1764, |
| † Abiathar Houghton,-----  | "     | Seth Oaks,-----                | "     |
| † John Brown,-----         | "     | William Oaks,-----             | "     |
| † Samuel Reed,-----        | "     | Silas Whitney,-----            | "     |
| Gabriel Pouchey,-----      | 1758, | Stephen Choate,-----           | "     |
| Nathan Pouchey,-----       | "     | Nathaniel Bixby,-----          | "     |
| Barzillai Willard,-----    | "     | Amos Spring,-----              | "     |
| William Hodgkins,-----     | "     | Jonathan Foster,-----          | "     |
| John Gibson,-----          | "     |                                |       |

## SECTION 3.—CONTRAST BETWEEN 1764 AND 1864.

What mighty changes have been wrought during a single century! Then the few inhabitants within the limits of this town, belonged to a colony of Great Britain. All writs and warrants ran in the king's name. George III. had been on the throne less than four years. The

\* Those marked thus were owners of land, and engaged in the settlement, though some of them were not actual settlers. Some of them, after remaining for a time, left never to return. Besides there is an uncertainty about the exact year of the coming of a few. Thirty or more of these men, the larger part of them having families, were here at the time of the first town meeting. There is considerable diversity in spelling the names. Oaks is written Oak; Craig, Crag; Burnham, Burnam; Pouchey, Pushey; Stimson, Stimpson, &c.

† These men were in the place on the 25th of October, 1757.

thirteen American colonies were sparsely peopled except near the coast. Behind them was the wilderness, filled with wild beasts and savage men. Behind these, on the north and west, French colonies, settlements and military posts stretched from the gulf of St. Lawrence, by Niagara, and Pittsburg, to New Orleans. Indians and Spaniards bounded the English settlements on the South. Our fathers were hemmed in by barbarous and civilized enemies on either side except the sea, across which the mother country reached her strong hand for the purpose of repression rather than of help. The colonists were poor. Their farms were mere openings in the forest. Their villages were separated by intervening woods, over which the meeting-houses could be seen, from hill-top to hill-top. Their houses were either log cabins, or small, rude, unpainted specimens of rustic architecture, with here and there a residence of higher pretensions. There were no manufactures except those wrought by female fingers, on wheels and looms, by the domestic fireside. The British Parliament would not permit, if able to prevent, the making of even a "hob-nail" in the colonies. Our fathers were in a state of dependence, and it was the intention of England to keep them dependent as long as possible, and in the meantime, make them tributary to her wealth and glory.

In those days Winchendon was on the frontier. A few settlements were scattered here and there in the wilderness, between this spot and Canada. The greater portion of the land was in the possession of the wild beasts and the Indians. At every outbreak between France and England, the French and their savage allies poured down upon our outlying towns, laid them waste, and carried their people captive.

Now the United States are a great and populous nation, rich with the accumulations of industry, and the returns of commerce. The wild beasts and the savages have fled before the advancing wave of population, and the military posts of the French, which once were girdled around us with the design of strangling, have been swept away, leaving no trace. We can travel westward thousands of miles, and see no territory but our own. Arts, learning, civilization, religion, all have their temples in our towns, villages and cities. We send great armies into the field, and we have one of the most powerful navies that ever floated. God has smiled on the wilderness, and it has become a garden. He has caused it to bud and blossom as the rose.

This town has witnessed and participated in the wonderful change.

One hundred years ago it was one of the remote settlements of the colony of Massachusetts Bay. It was nearly all forest, swamp and rock. It was a week's distance from the capital, with which it had no regular communication. Here the Indians fished and hunted. The few earliest settlers were not safe, previous to 1763, unless they slept in fortified houses. But now towns and cities are located on every side, and extend far to the Canada line. That colony itself is now assuming the greatness and the incipient port of an empire. Winchendon is within two and a half hours of a great, wealthy, populous and highly cultivated metropolis. The forests are turned into farmlands; the streams are vocal, not with their native music only, but with the busy hum of industry. Our workshops are full of busy artisans; our schools are filled with happy children, and our homes are the abodes of peace and comfort. If the first settlers could have had a vision of the changes in the land, and in their own home, which were to come, they would have been filled with wonder, and their faith would have staggered at the results which are now accomplished facts.

These remarks are not irrelevant, since there is a reason why 1764 and 1864 are intimately connected in general history, and in the history of this town. There is an historical unity between the two dates, as will be seen at once, when it is stated that the conclusion of the last French and Indian war, in 1763, made it possible for Winchendon to gain population enough to be organized into a town. Many years had the Proprietors been laboring to bring the soil under cultivation, and to erect a township; but successive wars between England and France, in which the colonies and the Indians were always involved, rendered this place, and all the adjacent country insecure. A few persons were here previous to the outbreak of the last French war, and they remained through it. Some of the early settlers were probably engaged in that war of liberation, when the foundation of our independence was really laid. Some followed Wolfe into Quebec, by the capture of which the French power was broken. The war lingered until 1763, when peace was declared, Canada was transferred to England, and all the country between here and the Canada line, was rendered safe for settlement. The people began to move westward and northward; there was an accession to the population of this place. Application was made for an act of incorporation, which was granted, and in the spring of 1764, Winchendon became a town.

The following advertisement, taken from the Massachusetts Gazette, properly comes in here as an illustration of the times.

Notice is hereby given to the delinquent proprietors of Ipswich Canada (so called) in the county of Worcester, who at their legal meeting held on June the 30th, 1762, did vote and raise 12s on each original right to pay for preaching, and 12s for highways and other charges, and £1 for the Rev. Mr. Daniel Stimpson's settlement and £1 for his first year's salary. And at another meeting of said proprietors held on Nov. 17, 1763, did vote £1, 6s, to be raised on the three after divisions then drawn to pay the Committee for laying out the same, and on each original right £1, 10s, towards finishing the meeting-house.

THAT if said proprietors do not pay the said taxes and all arrears unto Abiather Houghton, treasurer for said proprietors, that so much of their lands will be exposed to sale at a public Vendue to the highest bidder, at the house of Capt. Joshua Hutchins inn-holder in Lunenburg, as will pay said taxes and arrears and all intervening charges, on Wednesday, the 18th day of January next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon. And said sale to continue from time to time if need be till finished.

*Proprietors*, { BENJ. GOODRIDGE,  
*Committee*, { THOMAS WILDER,  
 { ABIATHER HOUGHTON.

Sept. 9, 1763.



### CHAPTER III.—ORGANIZATION AND NAME.

“For government, though high and low and lower,  
Put into parts, doth keep in one consent,  
Congruing in a full and natural close,  
Like music.”

HENRY V.

In the year 1763, the Proprietors petitioned the Great and General Court for an act of incorporation, with all town privileges. The proceedings of the meeting which took measures for an act of incorporation, were as follows :

“At a legal Meeting at the house of Gabriel Pouchey in the township, June 22, 1763,

*Voted*, That the Proprietors will join with the inhabitants in a petition to the General Court, that Ipswich Canada may be incorporated into a town.”

“June 23, *Voted*, That a tax of one penny per acre be laid on all the lands that are already laid out in Ipswich Canada, for the term of three years.

*Voted*, That Benjamin Goodridge, Esq., and Daniel Bixby, be a committee to draft a petition in order to send to the Great and General Court, that Ipswich Canada may be incorporated into a town, and the lands taxed according to the above vote.”

At the same time, the inhabitants of the township sent a petition to the authorities in Boston in the following terms. The document was recently found among the papers of Hon. Abel Wilder, which are in the possession of his grandson, Dea. Albert Brown. A portion of the sheet is torn off, and the blank cannot be filled. What remains is here given.

“To His Excellency, Francis Bernard, Esq., Captain General and Governor in chief of His Majesty’s Province of the Massachusetts Bay : To the Honorable, His Majesty’s Council, and House of Representatives of the said Province, in General Court assembled, May, 1763.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Tract of land called Ipswich Canada, with a number of non-resident proprietors—humbly sheweth :—

That the said inhabitants are poor, and their number is so small by the non-settlement of many rights of land there, that they are unable to pay their various taxes, particularly their quota of the salary of their settled minister ;— That the inhabitants, excepting one or two, are under special obligation to pay all the charges of the whole rights to which the lots they inhabit respectively belong, till the said Tract of land shall be made a town or district ;— That the said inhabitants have already paid of such charges more than their lots are worth separate from the improvements made thereon by their labor ; —And that the best ex-----humbly conceive, to pre-----said tract of land, is----- actually subjected to a-----

Whereupon your-----your Excellency and----- the said tract of land into a town (by the name of Epesberry,) and that all the lands of such town may be taxed----- for the payment of the said taxes, for the space of \_\_\_ years ; or otherwise relieve your petitioners as in your wisdom you shall think fit ; and your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

The petitioners, it seems, desired to have the new town styled Epesberry, in honor of two distinguished men of Ipswich, the Hon. Simonds Epes, and the Hon. Thomas Berry. Why this part of the petition was denied, we have no means of ascertaining, but every inhabitant must be gratified that we are saved from the endless confusion in spelling which would have been the result of calling the town Epesberry. Besides the sound of Winchendon is far more euphonious.

And thus the annals of the township, from the first grant as “ Ipswich Canada,” until its incorporation as a regular town, have been recited.

In compliance with the prayer of the above petition, the General Court passed an act on the 14th day of June, A. D. 1764, incorporating the plantation of Ipswich Canada into a town to be called Winchendon. The Act of incorporation is inserted here.

“ An Act for erecting the Plantation called Ipswich Canada into a Town by the name of Winchendon.

Whereas the inhabitants of the Plantation called Ipswich Canada in the County of Worcester, labor under many difficulties, and inconveniences by means of their not being a Town : Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives, That the Plantation commonly called and known by the name of Ipswich Canada, in the County of Worcester, bounded as follows, viz : South twelve

degrees West, seven miles and two hundred rods on Dorchester Canada ; West eighteen degrees South, two hundred and seventy rods on Westminster ; North thirty-six degrees West, four miles and two hundred and twenty rods on Templeton line ; North seventy-eight degrees West, six hundred rods on Templeton line ; North twelve degrees East, four miles and two hundred and sixty rods on Royalshire ; South seventy-eight degrees West—[rather, East twelve degrees South]—six miles on Royalshire line ; be and hereby is erected into a Town, by the name of Winchendon, and that the inhabitants thereof be, and hereby are invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities, which the inhabitants of the Towns within the Province do or may enjoy.

And be it further enacted, That there be laid on the lands already laid out in said Town of Winchendon, a tax of one penny per acre for the term of three years.

And be it further enacted, That Edward Hartwell, Esq. be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant in said Town, requiring him to warn the inhabitants of the said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at such time and place as shall be therein set forth, to choose all such officers as are or shall be required by law to manage the affairs of the said Town."

This Act of Incorporation was signed by

J. BERNARD, GOVERNOR.

A few words may be appropriate in this place in regard to the origin of the name. It is English in its origin, and it is not known that there is another place in the United States having the same name. Mr. Hyde, in his History of the Town, says: "It seems that Winchendon was so called after the name either of a manor or of a small town in England. An English historian states that 'In the month of December, 1706, Her Majesty, Queen Anne, conferred the following honors, viz, Thomas Lord Wharton was created Viscount Winchendon and Earl of Wharton.'" In reference to this subject, Dr. Whiton says, "The name, that of a small town or manor, in England formerly and perhaps now giving title to an English nobleman, Viscount Winchendon, was probably suggested by the then Gov. Bernard, in compliment to some friend or place to whom or which he was partial ; it being quite fashionable at that day, for the royal Governors to compliment favorite persons or places in England, by scattering their names over new settled places in the colonies."

The above suggestions may be true, but I am more inclined to the opinion that the origin of the name was as follows. Ipswich was settled by emigrants, some of whom, as I have somewhere read, were from *Upper Winchington*, in Buckinghamshire; and it is quite probable that the grantees of this place suggested the name of Winchendon for the purpose of perpetuating a name familiar to their fathers.

During this and the preceding year, about ten new settlers came into the town, among whom we find the names of Bixby, Mansfield, Oaks, Whitney and Spring. There were now about thirty families, and probably two hundred souls in the town. The leading men were Richard Day and Abel Wilder.

It is a matter of interest to know whence many of the early settlers, both before, and some years after the organization of the Town, came. Ipswich contributed the Days, Poors, Tuttles, Darlings and Polands. The Stimpsons and Whitneys came from Weston; the Hales, Curtises, Sherwins, Perkeys and Emerys from Boxford; the Goodridges from Lunenburg; the Wilders from Leominster; the Paysons, and (probably) the Boyntons from Rowley; the Murdocks and Hydes from Newton; the Bemises and Balcoms from Sudbury; the Tuckers from Milton; the Rices and Greatons from Spencer; the Raymonds from Holden; the Browns, in part, from Lexington; the Stoddards from Cohasset; the Bradishes and Grouts from Leicester; the Greenwoods from Sherborn; the McElwains and Bruces from Bolton; the Evanses from Reading; the Farrars from Sterling; the Tolmans from Dorchester; the Buttricks and Flints from Concord; the Bixbys from ———, and the Waleses from Braintree.

As a matter of curious information in relation to persons, and also in regard to the way of doing things, in old times, it is thought best to insert, in this place, the proceedings of the two first Town Meetings, in full, as they are found in the Records. The Warrant for the first meeting and the proceedings of the same, have been obligingly furnished by Webster Whitney, Esq., Town Clerk.

“ *Worcester, ss.* To Mr. Richard Day of the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester, Yeoman,

GREETING.

*Whereas* I am ordered and impowered by the Great and General Court, to issue my Warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant of said Town, requiring him to warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble in some suitable place in said Town, to choose all neces-

sary officers to manage the affairs of said Town, and also to assess, and levy and collect the land tax: These are therefore, In his Majesty's Name, to require you, the said Richard Day, forthwith to warn the inhabitants of said Town of Winchendon, qualified as aforesaid, to assemble and meet at your dwelling-house in said Town, on Monday the fifth day of November next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there being assembled, to act on the several articles hereafter mentioned, viz:

1st. To choose a Moderator for the government of said Meeting.

2d. To choose Selectmen, and all other Town officers for the present year, as the law directs.

3d. To choose a Collector to gather the land tax.

And make due return of this Warrant and your doings thereon. Hereof fail not. Given under my hand and seal at Lunenburg, this sixteenth day of October, in the fourth year of his Majesty's Reign, A. D. 1764.

EDWARD HARTWELL,

*Justice of the Peace."*

"In obedience to the within written Warrant, I have warned all the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, to appear at the time and place within mentioned.

Winchendon, November ye fifth, 1764.

RICHARD DAY."

"At a meeting legally warned, November ye fifth, 1764, of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, to assemble and meet at the house of Richard Day, then and there being assembled, proceeded in manner as follows, viz:

Chose Richard Day, Moderator, to govern said meeting.

Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.

Theos. Mansfield, }  
Bennony Boynton, } Selectmen.  
Ephraim Boynton, }

Richard Day, Constable.

Nathaniel Bixby, Town Treasury.

Daniel Goodridge, Collector of the Land Tax.

Silas Whitney, }  
Ruben Wiman, } Church Wardens.

John Darling, Tythingman.

Daniel Bixby, Deer Reaf.

Aaron Hodskins, Fence Viewer.

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| William Oaks,     | } Surveyors<br>of<br>Highways.      |
| Timothy Darling,  |                                     |
| Amos Spring,      |                                     |
| Abel Wilder,      |                                     |
| Jonathan Foster,  | Sealer of Weights<br>and Measures.  |
| Silas Whitney,    | Surveyor of Boards<br>and Shingles. |
| Ruben Wiman,      | Field Driver.                       |
| Nathaniel Bixby,  | Sealer of Leather.                  |
| Stephen Choate,   | Stave Culler.                       |
| Nathaniel Burnam, | Fire Ward.                          |

These officers were chosen and sworn as the law directs.

A true Record, per

ABEL WILDER, *Town Clerk."*

The record of the first annual meeting shows some changes in the disposition of the various offices, and several new names appear. It will be noted also that by vote of the town all freeholders were allowed to vote.

“ At a meeting legally warned of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, to assemble at the public meeting-house in said town on Monday the 11th day of March, 1765, Then and there being assembled, proceeded in the following manner, viz :

1st. Chose Theos. Mansfield, Moderator for the government of said meeting.

2. *Voted*, That all freeholders shall be allowed to vote in said meeting.

3. Proceeded to the choice of town officers and chose

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Abel Wilder, Town Clerk.     |                |
| Theos. Mansfield, }          |                |
| Nathaniel Bixby, }           | Selectmen.     |
| Benoni Boynton, }            |                |
| Ephraim Boynton, Constable.  |                |
| Richard Day, Town Treasurer. |                |
| Jonathan Foster, }           |                |
| Theophilus Mansfield, }      | Wardens.       |
| Daniel Bixby, }              |                |
| Samuel Crage, }              | Tithingmen.    |
| John Darling, }              |                |
| Samuel Titus, }              | Surveyors of   |
| Jonathan Stimson, }          | Highways and   |
| William Oaks, }              | Collectors of  |
|                              | Highway Rates. |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Reuben Wyman, }                                       |                |
| Timothy Darling, }                                    | Deer Reeves.   |
| Abner Hale, }   |                |
| Jonathan Foster, }                                    | Fence Viewers. |
| Silas Whitney, }                                      |                |
| Samuel Titus, }                                       | Hog Reeves.    |
| Daniel Bixby, Sealer of Leather.                      |                |
| Richard Day, Sealer of Weights and Measures.          |                |
| Joseph Stimson, Field Driver.                         |                |
| Bartholomew Pearson, Surveyor of Boards and Shingles. |                |
| Daniel Goodridge, Collector of the Land Tax.          |                |

The officers for the present year were chosen and sworn as the law directs.

Attest,

ABEL WILDER, *Town Clerk.*”

In making these citations, the different modes of spelling the same names and words, have been followed, as they are found in the Records. At these first meetings of the town, no Overseers of the Poor were chosen, and no provision was made for the poor. Probably there were no paupers in the town to be provided for by law. It is possible, though not certain, that the following proceedings of the town authorities were taken for the purpose of ridding the town of a family which might become a public burden. In those early days, when new settlers were eagerly welcomed, there must have been strong reasons to induce the Selectmen to take such action as is indicated in the following extract from the Records.

“ *Worcester. ss.*

*To Richard Day, Constable in Winchendon,*

GREETING.

You are, in his Majesty's name, required forthwith to notify and warn Joseph Kneeland and Abigail his wife, Joseph Kneeland, Jr., his son, and Sarah Pierce Bigelow, and Elizabeth Bigelow, her daughter, who came last from Harvard, and Hannah their daughter, who was bound at Fitchburg, all to depart, and leave this town forthwith, or suffer the penaltys of the law in such cases maid and provided.

Hereof fail not, but make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to me as soon as may be.

Given under my hand and seal, this fourth day of January, in the fifth year of his Majesty's Reign, A. D. 1765.

By order of the Selectmen,

ABEL WILDER, *Town Clerk.*”

“ *Worcester. ss.*

WINCHENDON, January ye 7th, 1765.

By virtue of this Warrant within written, I have warned the within named Kneeland and family forthwith to depart out of this town to the place from whence they last came.

RICHARD DAY, *Constable of Winchendon.*

A true Record,

per ABEL WILDER, *Town Clerk.*

## CHAPTER IV. — CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE.

“View them near

At home, where all their worth and pride is placed;  
And there their hospitable fires burn clear,  
And there the lowliest farm-house hearth is graced  
With manly hearts, in piety sincere,  
Faithful in love, in honor stern and chaste,  
In friendship warm and true, in danger brave,  
Beloved in life, and sainted in the grave.”

HALLECK.

Having completed the annals of the town from the coming of the first explorers to the date of its organization, it may be well to pause here, in our chronology, and take a glance at the character of the inhabitants, their manners, and their social life. In this sketch, the author is indebted to the manuscripts of Dr. Whiton, and to traditional information derived from aged people, and children of the original settlers.

The early settlers were an enterprising, industrious, temperate, hardy and God-fearing people. Some of them were men of property, like Richard Day, while others were poor; some were men of strong sense and capacity for public business, like Abel Wilder; while others were plain farmers, and some, undoubtedly, were merely workmen, or “hands,” in the employ of others. But as a class, they were capable of subduing the wilderness, introducing the arts of pastoral life, taking care of their families, founding a town, and setting up a church. None but the enterprising and hardy would be disposed to find a home in such a wilderness; none but the industrious could live and thrive here. That they kept the Sabbath, and worshiped the God of their fathers, is fully proved by the fact that they immediately made provision for public worship, as if they felt it to be one of the necessities of society. The state of morals was good. The church was enlarged from time to time, and the ministry was held in great respect, and honorably supported.



The people, in that early day, were strangers to many of the conveniences and comforts of more recent daily life. "Their dwellings were without glass, and ill-fitted to exclude the cold. Had it not been for the roaring fires, kept up in winter in huge fire-places, fed continually with great logs, which the owners were glad to get rid of, and thought they could not burn up fast enough, the inmates must have suffered severely. Noble pines that would now be valued at more than fifty dollars, were unsparingly burnt as nuisances. Those immense fire-places were large enough to allow, at one end, a pathway to the oven, and also a location for a wooden bench, on which sat, in cold winter evenings, a row of boys and girls eking out a perhaps scanty supper of bean porridge, by parching corn and roasting potatoes in the embers."

"Their farming utensils" continues Dr. Whiton, "were clumsy; indeed we should deem them intolerable. Homespun and coarse, yet durable was their clothing; the men wore tow shirts, striped woolen frocks and leather aprons; the best suit of coarse woolen was reserved for Sundays and special occasions, and lasted year after year, the wearers giving themselves very little concern about the mutations of fashion. Great coats and surtouts were rare; boots very rare. Many a man would have rejoiced in the ownership of a pair, but felt unable to buy them. In winter they wore shoes, excluding the snow by woolen leggins, fastened over the mouth of the shoe by leather or tow strings. Neither men nor women wore shoes in summer at home; on Sundays, the women, to save the wear, sometimes carried them in their hand, walking barefoot, or perhaps wearing an old pair till they came near the meeting-house, when they would stop a few moments and put on the meeting-shoes of thick, coarse leather."

In confirmation of this statement, the author was told, by an old lady living in the south-western part of the town, whose golden wedding he attended a few years since, that she and her companions, when girls, were accustomed to carry their shoes in their hands, nearly three miles, and when near the meeting-house, they stopped at a certain place, and put the shoes on their feet. Customs differ. The ancient Hebrews were accustomed, when entering a sacred place, to put their shoes from off their feet, because the place on which they stood was holy ground. Our ancestors, on the contrary, were in the habit of covering their feet when drawing near to the house of God.

“When engaged in their domestic work,” continues Dr. Whiton, “which was nearly all the time on week days, they were clad in a short gown and petticoat, of coarse material, with a striped apron; calicoes being thought an article too expensive and dressy for common wear. Candles being scarce and oil hardly known, the women carded and spun, and the men shaved shingles or read a little by the light of blazing pine-knots, or pitch-pine splints. The household furniture was rude and scanty; the cupboard exhibited an array of wooden and pewter plates, and pewter spoons. Stools and blocks of wood oft served instead of chairs; carpets, sofas and pianos were unheard of; instead of them were the spinning wheel, both great and small, and the loom; articles, if less ornamental, certainly more indispensable. Tea, coffee, and other foreign luxuries were scarce known, or at any rate, seldom used. Broths of various kinds—corn, barley, and the far-famed bean broth, milk when it could be had, brown bread, journey [or johnny] cakes, hasty-pudding, boiled and fried pork and potatoes, baked and boiled beans, were the great staples of living.

Sometimes in winter families were conveyed to meeting through deep snows on an ox sled; in summer the man, if he were the owner of a horse, rode to meeting with his wife seated on a pillion behind him, a child on a pillow before him, and possibly a smaller child in the mother’s lap, encircled by one of her arms.

That age of *homespun*, of hard work and simple fare, was however interspersed, on the part of the men, with trainings, musters, raisings, huskings, chopping-bees, wrestling-matches, piling-bees; and in the female world, with quiltings, carding-bees, and apple-parings, if apples could be found. If the rude dwellings were not often animated with the faces of visitants, they were enlivened with the buzzing of wheels and the clatter of looms. It was deemed not improper, but respectable for females to perform, at certain seasons of the year, many kinds of out-door work. They reaped, raked hay, pulled and spread flax; in the absence of their husbands, housed and foddered the cattle, milked the cows, fed the swine, took care of the poultry, and when necessary, even caught and saddled the horse. In most instances they carded, spun, wove, colored, and made up the garments of the family. Surely our great grandmothers, many of whom were women of intelligence and high moral principle, we might add in relation to not a few, refine-

ment, not artificial but native, were far from eating the bread of idleness. Their descendants have ample reason to rise up and call them blessed."

Education in those early days was not what it now is, in many respects. The children had very little instruction in school. Where schools were kept, they were open but a few weeks in the year. The branches of study were reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic. But nearly all the inhabitants were able to read, and knew enough of figures to transact business in their limited way. The children one hundred years ago were ignorant of the multiplicity of branches which are now cultivated in our public schools; they had but few books, and scarcely any periodicals to read at home. A Boston Weekly brought them all their printed news. But they had the Bible, which is unequalled by all other books together in its educating and elevating influence. They had *Pilgrim's Progress*, which is worth whole libraries of ordinary juvenile publications, and always fresh because revealing new thought and hidden beauties to the advancing reader. They had *Robinson Crusoe*, which has aroused thousands of minds to activity, and set millions of youth forward in paths of enterprise and achievement. They had other works,—religious, historical, literary, biographical,—which trained them to think. And the events of the day in the mother country, as well as in the colonies, gradually made them familiar with the principles of government. Their own necessities were a constant spur to industry and invention. In a certain sense therefore the youth of this town, in its earliest years, had a good intellectual training. They grew up to be capable of managing their private affairs, training their own families, and performing all municipal and military duties.

In regard to morals and religion, no people in the world had more intelligent or sounder convictions. The morals of the people were good. The rights of property were respected. Bolts, bars and locks were not needed to guard articles of value. The women and children slept securely at night so long as wild beasts were excluded from their habitations. Female honor and purity kept the domestic hearth secure. If the men used New England or West India rum, as a beverage, drunkenness in those early days, was a rare vice. Though all were not members of the church, yet there was general harmony of religious views. Nearly all were of the old Puritan stock, and thus formed a homogeneous society. Thus the solid foundations of the town were laid.

## CHAPTER V.—ANNALS OF THE TOWN; 1764—1800.

“The lapsing years joined those beyond the flood,  
Each filled with loves, griefs, strifes and honest toil;  
And thus as shadows o’er the checker’d plain,  
Children their fathers followed to the grave.  
The fruitage of their lives and deeds is ours.”

THE ANNALIST.

Events which occurred from year to year, but which cannot be grouped under specific heads, will here be given in chronological order, from the time of organization to the close of the century.

1764. The first town meeting was held, on the fifth of November, at the house of Richard Day.

1765. The first annual town meeting was held at the public meeting-house, on the eleventh of March. The line between Winchendon and Templeton was perambulated from the road to Templeton, to the N. E. corner of that town. At a town meeting on the fourth of September, a grant of eight dollars was made to be laid out in schooling. Joseph Boynton, Joseph Stimson, Reuben Burnham and Simeon Burnham, were added to the population. The line between Winchendon and Ashburnham was perambulated.

1766. Several families moved in this year. James Murdock came from Newton, and Abner Hale from Boxford. Levi Bixby, James Mansfield, Thomas Rugg, Richard Bailey and Isaac Stimson joined the settlers. The town declined to send a delegate to the General Court.

1767. Abel Wilder was chosen deacon as coadjutor of Dea. Day. Seven families came in this year, viz, those of Dudley Perley, or Parley, John Cheney, William Porter, John N. Parmenter, Richard Pearson, Thomas Gray, and Jonathan Bixby. The Rev. Mr. Stimpson was chosen in place of Thomas Mansfield, chosen at a former meeting, to

carry a petition to the General Court in regard to taxation. The motive was economy doubtless, as the minister, being a public servant, charged his expenses and not his time. Besides, he could take the occasion to visit his friends at Weston.

1768. The town's Minister, Rev. Daniel Stimpson, died of putrid fever, on the 20th of July. In September the town declined to send a delegate to a Provincial Convention, on the ground, as was said in their vote, that they were "a small people;" but they pledged themselves to the support of whatever measures might be agreed upon by the Convention. In the words of the records, "to promote manufacturys and suppress superfluitys." The population had increased to about sixty families, and three hundred souls. The following new names belong to this year: Amos Merriam, Thornton Barret, Micah Bowker, Rev. Joseph Brown. The latter began to preach here near the close of the year.

1769. Mr. Brown was settled as the minister of the town on the 24th of May. The new comers were John Boynton, Thomas Sawyer, Peter Joslin, Abijah Stimson, Ebenezer Sherwin, Solomon Bigelow, Eli Smith, Phinehas Wheelock, William Joiner, John Joiner, Lemuel Sarjent.

1770. Travel began to pass through this town from the west and northwest to Boston. Eleven new names appear among the inhabitants: Moses Hale, Jacob Hale, Amos Hale, brothers, Israel Green, Gershom Fay, Robert Bradish, John Chamberlain, John Day, Daniel Gould, Moses Foster, Jesse Fox. The Hales became numerous in the lapse of years, and many of their descendants still reside here. John Day was not a new comer, but a son of Dea. Richard Day, and probably admitted as a freeman or voter this year. The town declined to send a delegate to the General Court.

1771. We find nine new names under this date: viz, Samuel Noyes, James Noyes, Jonas Bradish, Gideon Fisher, Timothy Kneeland [spelled Nealand elsewhere,] Stephen Boynton, John Porter, Joseph Fay, Edward Payson.

In 1764, and in 1766, the legislature authorized the town to tax the lands of delinquent tax-payers in order to get their taxes. The tax was one penny per acre for three years. In 1771 an act was passed by the Lieut. Governor, Council and House of Representatives, authorizing the sale of lands to pay the tax. The first sale was on the 9th

of January, 1771, at the house of Silas Whitney, inn-holder. There were fifteen sales. On the 30th there were twenty sales, or twenty "pieces" struck off. The next day one sale was made.

On the 18th of February, eleven sales.

" 19th " twenty-two sales.

" 27th " eight sales.

In all seventy-seven sales were made. The purchasers were Silas Whitney, William Houghton, Richard Day, Gideon Fisher, James Simonds, Paul Eager, Daniel Gould, Nathaniel Oaks, Amos Merriam, Abel Wilder, Thomas Sawyer, Joseph Wilder, Phinebas Wheelock, Ephraim Stimpson, John Cheney, Jeremiah Stuart, Joseph ———, David Whitcomb, Abel Hunt, Levi Carter, Seth Oaks, Jonathan Stimpson, John Boynton, Ely Smith; in all twenty-four. This sale effected quite a change in the ownership of property. Several persons had removed from town. By vote, May 3d, the town declined to send a delegate to the General Court.

The subject of selling the land of delinquent tax-payers was revived in town meeting on the 12th of April, it having been reported that the taxes of the late Col. Berry of Ipswich, were paid before the sale. "If the receipt can be produced, to see if the town will come into some method to redeem the same." The proposal was negatived, and the presumption is that the receipt was not produced.

1772. New immigrants continued to establish their domiciles in Winchendon. Here follow the names of seven men: John Homer, Matthew Knight, Zebulon Conant, Francis Bridge, Samuel Mason, Ephraim Gale, Ephraim Sawyer, Antipas Dodge. Liberty was given for any person in the town to "build horse stables" on the Common. This provision was made for the comfort of the horses on the Sabbath, while the owners and their wives and children sat shivering in the unwarmed sanctuary.

John Homer had a lease of a quarter of an acre on the north end of the Common, west side of the road, for a house lot. On the 25th of May the town voted not to choose a representative. For seven or eight years next in order, the history of the town is involved in that of the country, and in this connexion may be hurriedly passed over. An occasional incident will be noted.

1773. The first record of help to any poor person, is November 8th of this year. It is for "hauling and chopping wood for Moffat's

Blacksmith Shop.

J. Homer.  
B. Adams.  
L. Raymond.  
John Cutter.

1  
2  
3

Harn.



4  
5

C B

6

7

1. G. Pushey.
2. J. Bradstreet.
3. L. Stimson.
4. Pound.
5. Old School House.
6. Blacksmith Shop of Mr. Burr.  
Jason Bemis.
7. { A. Godding,  
D. White,  
John Woodbury.
8. { D. Henshaw,  
Rev. Mr. Morton,  
O. Walker,  
R. Vose, Jr.
9. Rev. Mr. Stimson.

10. { S. Whitney,  
M. Knight,  
Landlord Griggs,  
Jas. McElwain,  
L. Stimson,  
Wm. Whitney,  
L. Wilder,  
W. B. Whitney,  
Charles J. Rice.

11. { Block House,  
M. Hale,  
Ph. Whitney,  
Mr. Wheeler,  
Franklin Hayward,  
B. Wilder.

12. { Francis Bridge,  
Joseph Sweetser,  
B. Lord,  
Holman,  
M. M. Reed.

13. I. Cummings.
14. C. Raymond.

15. { R. Day,  
Rev. Joseph Brown,  
B. Wilder, Sr.,  
H. G. Newcomb,  
Luther Richardson,  
Rev. M. Bullard,  
Rev. J. Storrs,  
Rev. B. E. Clarke,  
Josiah Dunn.

16. { Rev. Jos. Brown,  
Rev. E. L. Clark,  
Albert Hale,  
J. M. Stoddard.

A. First Meeting-House, 1762

B. Second Meeting House.

C. Third Meeting-House.

O { Day's Log Tavern.  
Wm. Holt.

Store.

WINCHENDON CENTRE.

Scale of 8 rods to an inch.





wife," six shillings; and later, for things delivered to Mrs. Moffat, amounting to over eleven shillings, including the pay for five pints of rum, 1s, 3d. The same year Gershom Fay was taken from the town to Northborough. The town declined to send a delegate.

A large number of settlers came in this year, viz, Levi Nichols, Miles Putnam, Amos Edmands, Joseph Wilder, Thomas Beals, Daniel Joslin, Ebenezer Smith, James McElwain, David Brown, Nathaniel Brown, Roger Bates, Jonathan Evans, Levi Carter, Ebenezer How, Samuel Steel, Josiah Baldwin. Levi Nichols was a man of enterprise and energy. His tavern was a great resort of travelers. This was on the spot occupied recently by Capt. Oliver Adams, and now owned by Mr. Cromwell Fisher.

1774. March 7, Voted to buy "a funeral cloth," or pall. May 3, Voted not to send a representative. The new settlers were as follows: Ezra Hyde, Sr., William Whitney, Joseph Broadstreet, Ebenezer Sherwin, David Stoddard, Daniel Balcom, Samuel Spring, Nathan Green.

The names heretofore given have been taken from Mr. Hyde's History, and Dr. Whiton's manuscript, for the most part, but many have been inserted which are not found in their lists. For the future the names of settlers will not be given from year to year; but in the next chapter will be found the names of all who engaged in the public service in the revolutionary war; and in a subsequent chapter the names of every married couple in the town in the year 1800.

1775. The dysentery prevailed in the summer of this year, and in a considerable number of cases terminated fatally. In this or the next year, the first store for the sale of foreign goods was opened in the town, just south of Nichols' tavern. The death of Mr. Pushey, Pouchy, or Pouchey, one of the early settlers occurred this year.

1776. May 27, Chose Mr. Robert Bradish representative to the General Court. The tradition is that he was a man of strong sense and an ardent patriot, but very rough and uncouth in his manners and appearance. Early in the session he was about to enter within the bar of the House, when the officer stopped him. "I am a member of the House," said our stalwart delegate. "Indeed," replied the official, "I beg pardon, I thought you were a member of the barn." If the tradition is truthful, the officer lacked the spirit as much as Mr. Bradish lacked the appearance of a gentleman.

1777. Israel Whiton, M. D., settled in town. He came from Connecticut. He was, for a time, surgeon in the regiment of the brave and competent Col. Knowlton, whom Washington held in high estimation. Dr. Whiton lived here to a good old age, and had great influence in the town and in the church. Robert Bradish was re-elected.

1778. January 23. The Articles of Confederation of the United Colonies were read in town meeting. March 2, Voted to receive the strip of land lying between the north line of Winchendon and the Province line, called "Royalston Legg," on to the town of Winchendon, "upon the inhabitants of said Legg, and several principal inhabitants in the north part of Winchendon promising never to be instrumental in moving the meeting-house off of the meeting-house Common, so called."

1779. Abel Wilder, Esq., was chosen delegate to the Convention called to frame a Constitution for the State. He was in the public councils nearly all the time until his decease in 1792. March 1, "Voted to give thirty pounds to any inhabitant of this town who shall kill a wolf before March, 1780." May 2, Voted "not to choose a representative." The winter of 1779-80 has always been known as the "hard winter." The cold was so extreme that Long Island Sound was frozen over, and a man drove a horse and sleigh from Saybrook to Long Island. The snow was deep and drifted, and the cold weather continued for a long time. During six weeks there was no dripping from the eaves on the south side of the houses.

1780. The weather continued intensely cold. In the words of Dr. Whiton: "at the beginning of 1780, and for weeks onward, most of the roads were impassable; traveling, except on great roads, and even there, accomplished with the utmost difficulty, was suspended; physicians walked to visit their patients on rackets; fuel was drawn to the door on hand-sleds; many families used boiled or pounded corn instead of meal, the mills being either frozen up or inaccessible. The family of Rev. Mr. Brown lived thus on corn about three weeks, till Dr. Whiton, who then boarded in the house, went to mill on rackets, carrying on his back a peck of corn, and returned with meal, affording to the family the pleasure of once more eating bread. Till late in April the fences were buried under the snow."

October 11, "Granted £450 to Levi Bixby as a bounty for three wolves he and Beal have killed since last March."

"*Voted* and chose a Committee to dispose of the common and undivided land belonging to the ministerial and school rights. Chose Dea. Hale, Capt. John Boynton, and Lieut. Samuel Prentice."

"*Voted*, That if the Proprietors choose a Committee to dispose of their common and undivided lands lying in this town, that the above Committee join with them and make sale of the common and undivided land belonging to the above-mentioned rights, or dispose of it otherways as the Committee see fit."

"The Committee are directed to see that the above rights draw full share in all the common lands which was not drawd in second division lots."

"That the Assessors be directed for the future to rate all the common and undivided lands lying in the town."

May 18th was the memorable "dark day." The darkness was so dense by 11 o'clock, that fowls went to roost, and cattle came to the barns as if it were night. Before noon candles were necessary. In the evening the darkness was like that of Egypt.

December 27, "Landlord Griggs" is mentioned in the Records. He was the second or third landlord on the Common.

1781. Abel Wilder, Esq., was the first representative under the State Constitution. March 5. Chose a Committee of three to take up the petition of Gideon Fisher and others, inhabitants in the southeasterly part of this town, to be set off, and report to the town at the annual May Meeting. The Committee were Abel Wilder, Mosés Hale, Israel Whiton." This led to the incorporation of Gardner. [See the end of this chapter.]

March 22. "*Voted* that the petition be taken out of the front galery so that the men may have the whole of the front galery."

April 23. "*Voted*, That the money due to the widow Oaks be paid ninety to one." "*Voted*, That the women have one-third part of the front gallery in the meeting-house, and that there be a petition erected for that purpose."

"*Voted* to see if the town is willing to have the mode of singing without reading introduced on Sundays." Passed in the affirmative.

December 14. Warwick sent a letter about a new county. No action taken.

1783. May 16. Persons who had moved into the town from other

towns where they had paid their rates for hiring three years' men, asked to have their rates abated here. The town refused.

1784. March 1, The town meeting was held in the school-house. March 8, Francis Bridge and Joseph Sweetzer were allowed to set up a store on Meeting-house Common. April 5, Jason Bemis had liberty to set a blacksmith's shop on the meeting-house Common. It was to be south of Mr. Burr's shop on the east line of the Common.

May 26, The town voted in favor of having a new county, and Benjamin Brown, Dea. Moses Hale, and Capt. Wilder were chosen a Committee to consult with Committees of other towns. This question came up frequently in subsequent years, and never came to anything. September 6, The Selectmen were directed to purchase a "funeral cloth."

1785. A tract of 3680 acres was taken from the town, and joined with territory taken from adjoining towns, to form the town of Garder. The people of Winchendon concurred in the measure. William Whitney obtained a vote to have all his farm left in Winchendon. At one time he owned six 80 acre lots adjoining, besides land in other parts of the town.

Voted one penny on the pound to the Constable, for collecting for the year 1783.

March 7, In a freak the town chose Dr. Whiton hog-reeve, and Dr. Atherton fish-reeve. It was probably done by the Shays' men, who had a decided opponent in the former.

May 16, Voted to commit a certain inhabitant of the town to gaol unless he paid his taxes.

1786. Abel Wilder was chosen to the Senate, and continued in the same office until his death. Dea. Hale succeeded him as representative. There was no vote in the town against Mr. Wilder.

May 15, "Voted to build a new pound, and to build it with stone. Voted to set it on the northeast corner of the Common, twenty-five feet each way within the walls, six and one-half feet high, four feet broad at the bottom, and properly tapering to the top."

1787. May 14, Abel Wilder was chosen representative, but having been chosen a Senator at the same time, the town chose Dea. Hale representative on the 30th of July. The town changed its mind about the pound, and voted to build it of wood, of white pine timber,

eight feet high. Struck off for ten dollars to Mr. Levi Moor. The town refused to give the front gallery "to convene the singers."

October 8. An article was in the warrant in relation to setting up grave-stones in memory of Rev. Daniel Stimpson. Negatived. December 3, Dea. Moses Hale was chosen delegate to the Convention for ratifying the Constitution of the United States. He voted in the negative, with a large majority of the delegates from Worcester county.

1788. May 12, Chose Samuel Crosby, Esq., to take care of the town's stock of ammunition. September 15, Voted, That two of the Assessors should go round and take a new invoice of the town. This "invoice" which would be a great curiosity now, was probably burned with all the Assessors' books and papers a few years since.

December 18. A town meeting was held to choose a representative to the first Congress under the Constitution of the United States; and also to vote for presidential electors. For Congressmen the vote was as follows: "Hon. Jonathan Grout, Esq., 20; Hon. Artemas Ward, Esq., 16; Hon. Abel Wilder, Esq., 6; Hon. Timothy Paine, Esq., 1. This was the first movement towards sending Mr. Wilder to Congress. The following was the vote for electors: Hon. Amos Singleary, Esq., 19; Hon. John Fessenden, Esq., 19; Hon. Samuel Baker, Esq., 4; Hon. Moses Gill, Esq., 14. The meeting then adjourned from the cold meeting-house to "Mr. Stimson's east room," where was a good fire, and other warming things. This "east room" was in the tavern which stood for many years on the spot where the house of Charles J. Rice, Esq., now stands. The business transacted shows that the town was getting earnest about collecting its taxes. "Voted, That the Treasurer call immediately upon the persons that owe upon notes and if not paid soon, the notes to be put in suit. 2dly, Voted, That the Treasurer be directed to receive lumber for these notes in favor of the town, at cash price. 3dly, Voted, That the Treasurer allow 20s. a thousand for good merchantable closing boards; 6s. per bunch for good merchantable shingles, 6-8 per thousand; eight dollars a thousand for good merchantable clapboards. Voted, That the lumber be delivered at the Treasurer's own dwelling-house. If not sold before the next March meeting, to be set up at the vendue." Dea. Hale was Treasurer, and his house was then on the southeast corner of the Common.

1789. May 8, The town had thrown Jonathan Stimpson into jail for his taxes. An article in the warrant for the meeting held this day, was "to see what method the town will take to said Stimpson and his family." The town voted "to let out said Stimpson upon the best conditions for the town they can."

1791. September 5. The lot of school land, No. 170, was sold to Dea. Levi Moor; and the money was loaned on land security. November 7, the town voted to petition the General Court for liberty to convey by deed the ministerial and school lots belonging to the town. November 12, Abel Wilder was chosen to draft a petition respecting the sale of land, which draft was approved by the town.

By the census this year it was found that there were one hundred and fifty houses, and nine hundred and fifty inhabitants in the town, showing that the increase of population had been quite rapid. The houses were scattered over the town, for as yet there were no villages except at the centre.

1792. April 2d, "Voted, That the town will have their town meetings opened and proceed to business at the hour set in the warrant.

September 5, Thaddeus Bowman and Thaddeus Bowman, Jr., left in debt to the town. The town, by execution, took land in Wethersfield or Cavendish, Vt., and now Mr. Amos Heywood was chosen agent to make sale of said land.

September 24, Samuel Prentice was chosen agent to prosecute those who had not fulfilled their obligations in respect to building the new meeting-house. The town refused to have a house occupied as a hospital by persons "inoculated for the small pox, in some remote part of the town, to be under the care of some skillful physician." In consequence, the Hon. Abel Wilder went to Jaffrey for treatment, where he died in the pest-house.

The town had a law-suit before the Court of Common Pleas at Worcester, with Luther Stimson, respecting the support of Mrs. Thankful Stimson. Dea. Hale was agent of the town in conducting the case. He employed Esq. Paine and Esq. Strong as counsel. The decision was in favor of the town.

1793. Jeremiah Stuart's part of the tax for building a meeting-house was abated. He claimed to be a Quaker. June 3, Dea. Samuel Prentice was chosen Treasurer, in place of Lieut. John Burr, who died in the preceding month.

1794. Here is an item which must have been the occasion of talk in every house in town, at the time. A meeting was called, on the 6th of January, to take into serious consideration the request of Sally Lord. Voted, "That Miss Lord improve the house she now lives in, and also the red shop on the east side of the common, during the town's pleasure, and that the Selectmen assist her in conducting the matter according to their best discretion." She was the only living daughter of the first minister, and had been deserted by a selfish husband.

April 7. The town refused to petition the General Court for a new county. Also, "voted against setting off a part of the southwest of the town, to make a new town. Also, voted to burn a number of old notes due to the town from several persons. Chose a Committee to petition the General Court for liberty to sell ministerial and school lots."

May 5, "Voted to petition the General Court to abate a fine imposed on the town for not sending a representative."

May 28, Voted and empowered Moses Hale to sell the land belonging to the town in the State of Vermont, and give a deed for the same.

September 1. The following action was probably taken in connection with Washington's call for troops to suppress the "Whiskey Rebellion" in Pennsylvania. That was suppressed in October. The town of Winchendon voted "to make up to the soldiers who have turned out as minute men in this town, forty shillings per month as wages, including what they receive from Congress, from the time they march, to the time they are dismissed from the camp; and if they are called out of town before they march, to muster, or any other matter more than the rest of the militia, the town vote to give them three shillings per day for each day."

November 3, "Voted to let out to the lowest bidder the making an accurate plan of the town, agreeable to a Resolve of the General Court, passed June 19 preceding." Chose a committee to let out the business. Nov. 21. It was let out to Major Paul Boynton for \$39.67. "Voted and made choice of Moses Hale as a committee man, with Major Boynton, for the above-mentioned purpose of taking a plan of the town." The work was done by Dea. Hale, and the original by his pen is now in the office of the Secretary of State, in the State House at Boston. The effort to set off a portion from the southwest

of the town to form a new town was still pursued, but the town refused to take any action in favor of the measure. The design was to make New Boston a centre.

1795. A post route was established through this town this year.

A store was set up where the Village now stands. Its precise location is not known, probably where Mrs. Caswell lives. It was a small affair, suitable to the times. Thomas Wilder was the store-keeper.

May 6, Voted on the question of the necessity and expediency of revising the Constitution of the State. Yeas, 2; nays, 61. Accepted the Plan of the town.

September 3, Voted to set up guide-posts, agreeably to an act of the General Court.

The town generally set itself against all changes of town or county lines. In December of this year it voted against setting off Harvard to Middlesex county.

1796. May 5, Voted against dividing the county, and also against building a new Court House in Worcester.

September 5, Voted not to pay for a singing-school.

November 7, Voted to request the church to shorten the intermissions on Sundays in the longest days, to an hour and a half, and in the shortest, to an hour.

1797. May 2, Voted to give a bounty of three shillings for every old crow, and one shilling for every young crow killed in the town, by the inhabitants thereof, to continue for the time of six months from this day. A vote similar to this was passed at different times down to a recent period.

1798. January 1, Chose Dea. Moses Hale, Amos Heywood and Dea. Samuel Prentice a committee to remonstrate to the General Court against granting any money for the building a Court House in the town of Worcester."

March 5, "Voted that the three first Selectmen—there were five this year—be a Committee to give a deed of the leased lands when the money is paid in, and let out the same at six per cent., taking land security." By degrees the town was disposing of its lands.

April 2, Voted on dividing the county; yeas, 15; nays, 40.

Voted to procure a carriage and harness to be used at funerals.

Voted that the Seal of the town be the letters W. and N., and that the Selectmen procure said Seal.



May 7. The love of office was not so strong in the last century as it is at present, else ambitious men would have prevented any need of such action as is expressed by the following vote : " Voted to petition the General Court to abate the fine for neglecting to send a representative last year." It is possible however that towns would sometimes neglect or decline to send representatives in these days, because they were obliged to pay the expense. .

1799. September 30. The following action proves that the Militia system was considered important by those who had a lively recollection of revolutionary times. " Voted that the Selectmen equip such of the trainband as they think are unable to equip themselves."

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#### APPENDIX TO CHAPTER V.

The action of the town, embodied in the Report of its Committee, in reference to parting with a large section to the proposed town of Gardner, is so unselfish and honorable, that it is inserted here, as an appendix to the Annals. The Report was presented, " accepted and adopted," on the 17th of May, 1781. It was as follows :

" We, the subscribers, being appointed by the town of Winchendon, as a Committee to take into consideration the petition of Gideon Fisher and others, inhabitants of the southeasterly part of Winchendon, requesting to have a part of said town set off, and being annexed to parts of other towns, to form a distinct district, have attended to that business, and report as follows. Considering the situation of the petitioners, we think it reasonable a part of said town should be set off when those towns concerned have determined the respective boundaries of the district to be so formed, as that the same may be properly accommodated ; and as circumstances now appear, we think a straight line beginning at the northeast corner of lot No. 15, to the southeast corner of lot No. 80, would best accommodate, if the parts taken from the other towns are correspondent thereto ; and in order that said boundaries may be ascertained, we think it expedient that those towns concerned should meet by their Committees, or otherwise, to consult on the same."

## CHAPTER VI.—THE REVOLUTION.

“The God of battles smil’d—Justice triumph’d;  
The Stars and Stripes, Columbia’s sacred Flag,  
Like eagles’ pinions flutter’d to the breeze;  
And the Red Lion, haughty Britain’s emblem,  
Discomfitted, went howling back with rage,  
To lair amidst the white cliffs of Albion.”

WATSON.

## SECTION I.—SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

Having recited the annals of the town to the close of the century, it is now necessary to return, and dwell more fully on certain important events in which local and national history are blended. The first of these was the Revolution, which most deeply affected every inhabitant of the town.

The first settlers were in sympathy with their countrymen in relation to everything which pertained to the general welfare. They were full of the spirit of patriotism and of the love of independence. They responded to all the movements of Boston, led by Samuel Adams, in the years preceding the Declaration of Independence. The “Boston Massacre” occurred, and sent a thrill of indignation through all New England.

In January, 1773, a letter was received by the Selectmen from the town of Boston, in reference to public affairs, and requesting the people of Winchendon to take action in relation thereto, and send the result to the Committee of correspondence in Boston. Abel Wilder and John Boynton, two of the Selectmen, in response to a request signed by ten freeholders, called a special town meeting, “to see if the town will take into consideration the distressing circumstances of the present affairs of the province; and so far as concerns particular towns and individual persons, to act thereon by choosing Committees, or otherwise, as they shall see fit.” The meeting was held on the

fifteenth of February, the records of which are here copied, as they show the spirit of the people, two years before the clash of arms.

“ At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, on the fifteenth day of February, 1773, chose Moses Hale, Moderator for the government of said meeting. The meeting was then adjourned to 1, and again to 3 o'clock.

“ *Voted*, to take into consideration the distressing and dangerous circumstances of our public affairs.

*Voted*, to choose a committee consisting of five persons to prepare a draft to lay before the town, of such measures as may be thought proper for the town to come into, in order to defend their rights and liberties. Chose Messrs. Moses Hale, Levi Nichols, John Boynton, John Homer, and Dudley Perley, Committee for the purposes aforementioned.

*Voted*, and consented to the proceedings of the town of Boston in their stating the rights of the Colonists, as they are set forth in a pamphlet sent by a Committee of Correspondence in Boston to the Selectmen of Winchendon.” Adjourned to the first day of March at 2 P. M., in the meeting-house.

“ At a legal meeting of the freeholders and others of Winchendon, upon adjournment from the fifteenth day of February last, the Committee appointed the fifteenth day of February last, by the town of Winchendon, legally assembled to consider the letter from the town of Boston, with their statement of rights of the Colonies, and the infringements made upon them, which was publicly read at the said meeting, beg leave to report, That from a full conviction of the propriety and expediency of the measure, they do recommend to the inhabitants of this town to pass the following Resolves, namely :

1. *Resolved*, that having taken into serious consideration the state of the rights of the Colonies, and of the Province in particular, as men, as christians, and as subjects, and a list of infringements and violation of rights, as specified and set forth by the committee of the town of Boston, We are of opinion that the rights of this Province are well and truly stated in said list, as they are well supported and warranted by the laws of God, of nature, of the realm of Great Britain and the charter of this Province ; that a list of infringements and violations of those rights and privileges inherent to the inhabitants of this Province are well stated, vindicated and supported by a great variety of uncontestable facts, whereby it appears to us as aforesaid, that the time is speedily hastening when we shall be reduced to the most abject slavery.

2. *Resolved*, that having consulted our charter, we find that by the aforesaid infringements and violations, our rights and liberties, thereby derived, are sapped to the very foundation.

3. *Resolved*, that it is of the utmost importance the Colonies in general and the inhabitants of this Province in particular, stand firm as one man to support and maintain all their just rights and privileges.

4. *Resolved*, that this town will, at all times, heartily join with our brethren of this Province, and with every true friend to liberty, in all lawful measures which may be proper, salutary and effectual for the redress of our grievances and the establishment of our charter rights, privileges and liberties.

5. *Resolved*, that this town choose a committee to correspond with the Boston committee, and the committees of other towns, to receive and communicate to the town all salutary measures that shall be proposed or offered by any other towns for removing the common grievances of this Province, and to communicate the sentiments of this town to the correspondent committee of the other towns of this Province.

6. *Resolved*, that the united thanks of this town and of every true son of liberty and friend to the constitution of the Province, is due to the town of Boston for their early and indefatigable zeal in endeavoring to preserve the constitutional rights and liberties of this Province.

7. *Resolved*, that the town of Boston be served with an attested copy of our proceedings.

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| MOSES HALE,<br>LEVI NICHOLS,<br>JOHN BOYNTON,<br>JOHN HOMER,<br>DUDLEY PERLEY, | } | <i>Committee to consider<br/>of Grievances.</i> |
|--|---|---|

Winchendon, February 22, 1773.

The above Resolves being publicly read, it was put to vote. Accepted by unanimous vote.

*Voted*, and chose Messrs. Moses Hale, Levi Nichols, John Boynton, John Homer, and Dudley Perley, a Committee of Correspondence.

*Voted*, that the Town Clerk be directed to record the foregoing Resolves in the town book of records, and to return an attested copy of the same to the Committee of Correspondence above chosen.

MOSES HALE, *Moderator.*

A true copy, Attest,

ABEL WILDER, *Town Clerk.*"

The intention of the British government became plainer from year to year, and the determination of the Colonists rose in opposition. They would not surrender their birthright without a struggle. The people of Winchendon were in full accord with their countrymen in taking proper measures of resistance to tyranny. The Selectmen

issued a warrant for a town meeting to be held on the fourth of August, 1774. This was the language of one of the articles. "Whereas the committee of Correspondence of the town of Winchendon, have received a letter from the committee of Correspondence of Worcester, —requesting the town of Winchendon to appoint one or more of the committee of the town of Winchendon, to meet the other committees of the several towns in this county, at Worcester on the ninth of August next, to consult together, and come into some regular method to oppose the late Acts of Parliament; the intent of which is to bereave us of our rights and privileges;" and the meeting was to "see if the town will choose one or more of the committee for the abovesaid purpose." The record of the meeting was as follows:

"At a meeting of the town of Winchendon, August 4, 1774, Chose Mr. Eli Smith, Moderator for the government of said meeting. Chose Mr. Amos Merriam to join the Committee of Correspondence in the town in the room of John Homer, deceased.

Chose Mr. Moses Hale to meet the committee that may be appointed by the several towns in this county, at the widow Mary Stearns, at Worcester, on the 9th day of August instant, at 10 of the clock in the morning." Adjourned to the 25th of August. Then met and acted as follows:

"*Voted*, that Dea. Moses Hale go to Worcester upon the adjournment of the County Convention—That is, the adjourned meeting of the Convention.

*Voted* to accept of the following Resolves, namely:

1. *Resolved*, that we acknowledge ourselves true and liege subjects to his Majesty, king George III., and that we will, to the utmost of our power, defend his crown and dignity.

2. *Resolved*, that the charter of this Province is the basis of allegiance to his Majesty, the sacred obligation he is under to protect us, his American subjects, and that all Acts of the British Parliament which tend to vacate our charter without our consent, have a tendency to destroy our allegiance to the king, and also the obligation he is under to protect us, his most loyal subjects, which consequently reduces us to a state of nature.

3. *Resolved*, that those unconstitutional Acts lately passed in the British Parliament, wherein they claim a right to tax the Americans without their consent, and to alter our free Constitutions at their pleasure, has a direct tendency to break off the affections of his Majesty's true and loyal subjects in America, from the king, and therefore most certainly weaken the British nation, and will, if persisted in, unavoidably endanger, if not actually be a means of the destruction of the king, and the whole British realm.

4. *Resolved*, that we will, to the utmost of our power, oppose all such unconstitutional acts, which in our opinion, are directly against the dignity of the king and the constitution of this Province, and are ready to risk our lives and fortunes in defence of our rightful sovereign, and to maintain our free constitution, in order to save ourselves and posterity from ruin and slavery, which seems, like a torrent, rushing in upon us.

5. *Resolved*, that we will do all that lies in our power to maintain peace and good order amongst us according to the laws of this Province; and that we will break off all dealings, as far as possible, with all officers who hold their commissions under unconstitutional laws.

6. *Resolved*, that those men who are appointed Counsellors by a mandamus from England, directly contrary to the charter of this Province, and have taken the oaths required to serve in that office, are destitute of any regard to the good of their country, and ought to be treated as open enemies to the once free constitution of this Province."

#### SECTION 2.—THE FIRST NOTES OF DEFIANCE.

The above resolutions truly indicate the sentiments of the inhabitants of this town, though they may have been drafted, possibly, in Boston. It was not uncommon for the people of one place to adopt the resolves of another, inasmuch as the crisis produced almost entire unanimity among the people. An adjourned meeting was held on the 15th of September, when it was

"*Voted* to send a person to the Provincial Congress to meet at Concord the second Tuesday of October next.

Chose Mr. Moses Hale to go to Concord.

*Voted*, that every person from the age of sixteen to sixty years old, appear at the meeting-house in Winchendon, on Tuesday, the 20th day of this instant September, at one of the clock in the afternoon.

*Voted*, that the town will indemnify Mr. Jeremiah Stuart, Constable, in his not returning a list of the persons qualified to serve as Jurors agreeable to a late Act of Parliament; and he is hereby directed never to make such returns."

The last resolve was really a defiance to the government of the mother country, and evinces the purpose of the people to maintain their rights at all hazards. New events were in the same direction from month to month. In September, Gen. Gage, the royal Governor, issued a proclamation convoking the General Court to meet in

Salem, in October. Though the Governor countermanded the meeting, the representatives, nevertheless, assembled at the appointed time and place, resolved themselves into a Provincial Congress, adjourned to Concord, and there adopted a series of measures adapted to the times. To this adjourned meeting, the town of Winchendon sent a representative in the person of Dea. Hale, as appears by the vote above recited. Though the Provincial Congress was held in defiance of the constituted authority, yet the sanction of the people gave all their recommendations the force of law.

This year, 1774, is noted in American annals for the destruction of tea in Boston harbor. Between three and four hundred chests of tea were thrown into the water, by a party of men disguised as Indians, followed and assisted by a crowd in their usual dress. The British government, in their alarm at the excitement which their measures had aroused in the Colonies, and with the hope of conciliation, had repealed the duties on articles imported, with the exception of three pence per pound on tea, retained for the purpose of asserting their right to tax the Colonies. This claim was resisted, on principle, and one of the rough modes of resistance was taken by the pretended Indians. A venerable lady, now deceased, whose husband was one of the band, used to narrate the event, and tell how frightened she was when her door was opened that night, by a fierce looking Indian, and how she was calmed by a well-known voice, saying: "Don't be frightened, Elizabeth." According to her account, the number of men in the Indian costume was not large, but every man in the crowd afterwards claimed to be one of the tea-party, and by implication, at least, one of the Indians.

It is said, that though the ladies joined in the league which proscribed the use of tea, yet sometimes their love of the beverage would get the upper-hand of their patriotism. Under the name of *sage* tea, or *mint* tea, or some other herb, the genuine article was sipped by stealth, in the cellar or the garret. And there are stories that even parties of ladies would contrive, by setting a guard, to have a social tea-drinking; nor need there be any doubt, that under such inspiration, their tongues ran as glibly and patriotically on the engrossing topics of the day.

The next act of the town taken in unison with the other towns of the

Province, was another defiance of the royal government. Harrison Gray, Esq., was the Treasurer under the government of the crown, and the taxes could not be paid lawfully except into his hands. The Congress, however, recommended the several towns to pay their annual taxes into the hands of Henry Gardner, Esq., of Stow, as Treasurer for the Province. In reference to this matter the town passed the following vote, at a town meeting held on the 10th of January, 1775.

*“ Voted, that the Province taxes granted and levied upon the town of Winchendon, for the years 1772, 1773, and 1774, committed and soon to be committed to Thomas Sawyer and Jeremiah Stuart, Constables of Winchendon, be paid to Henry Gardner, Esq., of Stow, as soon as conveniently may be ; and the Constables are hereby ordered to pay the above-said money as above voted ; and the town will hereby indemnify the above-said Thomas Sawyer and Jeremiah Stuart in so doing, upon their producing receipts from the above-mentioned Henry Gardner, Esq.*

*Voted and chose Levi Nichols, Thomas Sawyer, Moses Hale, Abel Wilder, John Boynton, Eli Smith and David Poor, a committee to see that the Association of the Continental Congress be put in execution.*

*Voted, that the town will assist the above committee in carrying the above-mentioned Association into execution, provided they proceed agreeably to the directions of the Provincial Congress.”*

Here was an actual though not formal declaration of separation from the mother country. The authority of the royal governor was set aside, and the Provincial Congress was the recognized authority. The action of the Congress which the above committee were chosen to enforce, proscribed the importation and use of articles from Great Britain.

### SECTION 3. — LEXINGTON AND BUNKER HILL.

There were at this time, according to Dr. Whiton, about ninety families in the place, and near five hundred and fifty people, so that they were able to muster quite a company of militia. And if their guns were old fashioned, and mayhap rusty, they were wielded by strong and sturdy hands. When the news came of the battle of Lexington, in April, the alarm was spread in Winchendon by the firing of guns and the beating of drums. The people sprang to arms, and under the lead of Dea. Moses Hale, without a commission, a party of



them started for the scene of action. Learning, however, while on their way, that there were men enough in the field, near Boston, they returned home. They attended to spring work on their farms, and put themselves in preparation for the contest which was now opening before them. In the meantime, Capt. Abel Wilder was commissioned as captain. The time for preparation was brief, for letters dated May 6 and May 10, prove that Capt. Wilder was already in the camp at Cambridge. Sometime—the exact date has not been discovered,—prior to the battle of Bunker Hill, which was fought on the 17th of June, Capt. Wilder marched to Cambridge with his company. This company, says Dr. Whiton, “was composed of men from Winchendon, Royalston and Templeton.” Among the soldiers from this town were Benjamin Rice, Amos Hale, David Stoddard, Samuel Bradish, John Day, Nathan Day, (both sons of Dea. Richard Day,) Timothy Darling, Samuel Brown, and Elisha Brown.

It is supposed that some twelve or fifteen of the company were personally engaged in the battle; the remainder being on guard, or otherwise employed. “The Winchendon men engaged in the thick of the fight, were Wilder, Bradish, Stoddard, Rice, and Hale,” and perhaps others. Stoddard, though he received no injury, was covered with dust thrown up by a canon ball which struck the earth near his feet. Bradish was severely, and for a time it was supposed, fatally wounded, “by a ball accidentally discharged by a comrade, which entered the back of his neck, and came out at one of his eyes. The eye perished, but he himself surprisingly recovered. Apparently desperate as was the wound, he walked off from the battle-field to a place of refuge. When Capt. Wilder came to him after the retreat, he found the wound undressed, and demanding of the surgeon the reason for the neglect, was told it was of no use, as the man must certainly die; but he insisted that the wound should be dressed, which was accordingly done.” A letter\* written by Capt. Wilder to his wife Anna, the day after the battle, finds its place here. The ancient spelling is retained.

“CHARLESTON ENCAMPMENT, }  
June ye 18th, 1775. }

DEAR WIFE: These Lines are to inform you that I am pretty well, though I have had a poorly two or three days. Friday night I was quite poorly.

\* Kindly furnished, with many others, by his grandson, Dea. Albert Brown.

Doctor Wait said I must have a Vomit ; but I told him as there was a battle expected Satterday, I would not take it, lest I should be charged of taking it on purpose. But I took some tincture, which answered a good purpose. And according as was expected, a very hot Battle insued Satterday after noon. Our people had built a fort on a hill in the town of Charleston, and the Regulars landed upwards of two thousand men on said hill ; and our Regiment on the hill ; and they fired upward from four or five Ships, the north battery, and two or three field pieces, but blessed be God, there was not many killed by them. But presently they advanced up near to us, and I fired nineteen times, and had fair chances, and then they was too hard for us, and we retreated. The bals flew very thick, but through the Divine protection, my company was all preserved but one, Phimehas Nevers,\* who is missing, and Samuel Bradish, badly wounded. But men are in good spirit.

I remain your true and loving husband,

ABEL WILDER."

The spirit of the man is revealed in every line. He relied upon God ; he loved his wife ; he was careful of his men ; he was in the "hot battle," where the "bals flew very thick," and "fired nineteen times," though he was a captain, and had "fair chances," which means probably that he took aim at good marks. He had a long, slender gun, and fired it till it "was so stopped up" that he could not fire it any longer. Other officers of the company were Lieut. Jonas Allen, of Royalston, and Ensign Isaac Nichols, of Royalston. Benjamin Rice was second Sergeant in this Regiment, commanded by Col. Doolittle.

One of the company died while in camp. This was young Nathan Day, of this town, the son of Dea. Day, whose untimely fate was doubtless mourned by the inhabitants generally, as one of the first victims of the war, though he fell by disease rather than by the violence of the enemy. The following inventory of the few things belonging to the young soldier, while in service, is not without interest, after the lapse of almost a century.

"CAMP ON WINTER HILL, Sept. ye 1st, 1775.

Then rec'd of Capt. Abel Wilder, the several things hereafter mentioned, being all the things my brother Nathan was possessed of in the army when he died.

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\*Nevers was wounded, and taken prisoner to Boston, where he died.

One Great Coat, Two pair of Trowses, One Shirt, Two p'r of Stockens, One Coat and One Waistcoat, One Silk Handkerchief, One Hat, One p'r of Old Shoes, One Gun and Bagonet, One Cartridge Box, One Shirt.

JOHN DAY."

The following was found among the papers of Mr. Wilder, without a date, but it probably belongs to this period; and if so, gives us the names of the "Minute Men," who were ready for instant service. They are all Winchendon names.

"Order for Wages due on ye Minute Roll.

Lt. John Boynton,  
Lt. Dudley Perley,  
Serg't. Amos Merriam,  
John N. Parson, Jr.,  
Daniel Goodridge,  
Corp'l Abijah Stimpson,  
Roger Bates,  
David Goodridge,  
Elisha Brown,  
Samuel Brown,  
Samuel Bradish,  
Thadeus Bowman,  
Stephen Boynton,

Zebulon Conant,  
John Day,  
Nathan Day,  
John Darling,  
Jacob Hale,  
Benj. Kimball,  
John Porter,  
Eben'r Sherwin, (drummer)  
Eph'm Sawyer,  
Eph'm Stimpson,  
Bill Hancock,  
Joseph Wilder."

The following extract from a letter written by Capt. Wilder soon after he joined the army, gives us a vivid glimpse of the condition of the people of Boston, when leaving their homes in the possession of British troops.

"The people are coming out of Boston daily. I was at Charleston Ferry Monday, to see a load come over. They seemed to be glad that they had got out, but looked back sober to think they had left all their substance behind them."

There is occasional mention in his letters of visits from Winchendon friends, as "Mr. Mansfield and Sybil," and "Mr. Biglow," who "lodged in the tents two nights," and became "so beat out that he was obliged to go to the Hospital." Under date of October 7, he writes from Camp on Winter Hill, giving the following touching incident. "As for going into Boston, it is but a fancy. Last week on Friday, two of our floating batteries went down so nigh that they shot several balls through the houses, and it is said shot a woman through, with a child in her arms."

The following letter is so characteristic of the writer, and so descriptive of the times, that its space will not be grudged by any intelligent reader. No alterations have been made but such corrections as are necessary in preparing ancient letters—even those of Washington—for the press.

“PROSPECT HILL, CHARLESTON, }  
June 29th, 1775. }

DEAR WIFE: I received a letter from you yesterday, which informed me that the family was well, and you as well as you could expect, which gives me satisfaction. I hope you will be patient under common infirmities, and even if God is pleased to lay greater upon you than is common under your present circumstances. I shall not forget you, neither at the throne of grace, nor in common meditations, though I would not be understood that I am uneasy, for since it is the will of God that I should be here, I am entirely content to serve him in this way. I had almost forgot to tell you that I am well. I am as well as usual, but Abel is not well; he took physic last night, and is better to-day. As to the judgments of heaven, I am glad that you take a suitable notice of them, and wish every one might. But alas, there are some here that appear neither to fear God nor regard man; though blessed be God, there are not many such. We have been without a chaplain ever since we came down here, until about a week, but now we have one, Mr. Emory, who preached last Sabbath, and prays night and morning. And Col. Doolittle, who I was afraid was heedless, takes good care to have men attend, and attends himself with constancy and steadiness, which gives me pleasure. \* \* \* \* These from your true and loving husband,

ABEL WILDER.”

In a letter written early in November, he alluded to the fears of his wife lest he should remain in the army till spring, and expresses his own fear lest for some cause, not specified, he should be dismissed before his time was up. But on the 20th of the month, he writes from Winter Hill that “the officers of the army have their wages raised. A captain has twenty-six dollars per month, which is about enough more than I have to hire a man at home, and if are a mind to have me stay on these conditions, you must send me word.”

This letter properly introduces the paper which follows, headed: “Those names that are determined not to tarry longer than the last of December, 1775.”

As this list contains names not found in the roll of “minute men,”

it is proper to insert them in this place. It is probable also that some of the names in this list, and that which follows, belonged to men from Royalston and Templeton. As the paper is torn, the surnames of several cannot be given.

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Serg't. Seth Oaks,          | *Eliphalet Richardson, |
| “ Benjamin Rice,            | †Ebenezer Goodale,     |
| “ Daniel Joslin,            | †Joshua Goodnow,       |
| “ William Dike,             | Amos Hale,             |
| *Corporal William Clements, | Moses Hale,            |
| “ Elisha Brown,             | *John Norton,          |
| “ Solomon Biglow,           | Calvin Ea——,           |
| Henry Poor,                 | Samuel ——,             |
| *Peter Woodbury,            | Ephraim ——,            |
| David Stoddard,             | Seth W. ——,            |
| Michael Coffin,             | Joseph ——,             |
| †Bezaleel Barton,           | Ebenezer ——.           |

Then comes a list of “those names that are enlisted for the year ensuing,” being members of “Capt. Abel Wilder’s Company.” The names, as well as they can be deciphered, are as follows :

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Sg’t Isaac Nichols,     | George Moseley,    |
| †Capt. Nathan Wheeler,  | Benjamin Bolland,  |
| Robert Steel, (drummer) | Josiah Green,      |
| Abimaa Sherwin,         | Michael Coffin,    |
| Joseph Goodale,         | John Corneall,     |
| *Abijah Richardson,     | Barnabas Garrison. |
| Samuel Norton,          |                    |

The paper is endorsed, “Capt. Abel Wilder’s Return.”

#### SECTION 4.—DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

In 1776 several citizens of the town engaged in the struggle. The March meeting was called as usual, in the name of His Majesty. The Committee of Correspondence for the year were chosen, as follows : Abel Wilder, Moses Hale, Miles Putnam, Thos. Kimball, Francis Bridge. On the 27th of May the town voted in favor of the plan that the Council and House of Representatives should form a system of laws. So far, though the town had taken steps incompatible with true allegiance to the king, yet His Majesty’s authority had not been openly repudiated and defied. At length the time had come to throw off all

\* From Royalston.

† Unknown.

pretence of submission, and to assume the position of independence. And what was a most happy coincidence, the town of Winchendon declared for independence on the very day when the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress.

A meeting was called by the Selectmen, "in the name of the government and people of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay," to assemble on the fourth day of July, 1776, and that memorable meeting took the following action:

"At a legal meeting of the free-holders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, qualified by law to vote in the choice of a Representative, on the 4th day of July, 1776,

Chose Thomas Sawyer, moderator for the government of said meeting.

*Whereas*, this town has been called upon by the Honorable House of Representatives of this Colony, to signify their minds in regard of American independency; being duly sensible of the cruel and oppressive measures which are pursued by the King and Parliament of Great Britain in order to enslave the Colonies, and consequently the difficulty that will attend our being ever again united with Great Britain, therefore,

*Unanimously Resolved*, That if the Honorable Continental Congress should think best for the safety of these Colonies to declare them independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, that we will with our lives and fortunes support them in the measure."

This resolution was in response to the General Court, which body had assured Congress of the support of the people of this Colony. The question had been sent out for each town to act upon, individually, and the people of Winchendon were ready to peril lives and fortunes in maintaining the cause of freedom and independence.

At the regular town meeting held on the third of March, 1777, the Declaration of Independence was read by order of the General Court, and was put upon record in the Town's Record Book, "as a perpetual memorial thereof."

At a meeting held on the 8th of the preceding January, an account to the Selectmen for numbering the people was presented.

#### SECTION 5.—ENLISTMENTS.

On the 13th of March it was voted "to grant some money to encourage the enlisting of our quota of Continental soldiers." Then voted "to give £20 by way of hire to each man of a sufficient number of

men to complete the quota of men levied on this town for the Continental army, provided they will not engage upon the encouragement given by the Continent and State." Then chose a "committee of eleven persons to estimate services done in the war." Robert Bradish, representative the preceding year, was re-elected.

The town, in accordance with a warrant addressed to all that "have estate of freehold in lands in this State or Territory of forty shillings per annum," or other "estate to the value of fifty pounds sterling," at a meeting held on the 22d of May, "Voted and allowed £9 credit to those men who marched the last of April last, now at Rutland." The names of the men are not in the Book of Records. At the same time the town "Voted and granted £3000 to pay all the service that had been done in the present war by inhabitants of this town." It was also "Voted to allow £18 to each man who went with Capt. Oaks." The destination of Capt. Oaks is not given. With an eye to the future, the town, at this meeting, "Voted to procure men to serve in the war," and "Chose a committee of three men to hire men to serve in the war for this town in the future." The committee were Capt. John Boynton, Dea. Moses Hale, and Capt. Abel Wilder, who were authorized to hire money.

After taking into consideration the Constitution, or Form of Government, (prepared by the Council and House,) and deliberating thereon, it was put to see if the town would accept of the same. Yeas, 28; Nays, 6. At the same time the town declined to send a representative.

On the 31st of July news came to town requiring action in "hot haste." The Selectmen were prompt, and directed Joseph Wilder "to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of Winchendon, living south of the road from Ashburnham, and David Goodridge to to warn all living north of said line, to meet in Town Meeting on the first day of August, at 6 o'clock in the morning." These constables rode, post haste, over the poor roads of that day, on horseback, to get word to every man that he must be at the Common at 6 in the morning of the next day. One article in the warrant was in these words: "Whereas, there is one sergeant and six privates called for to march to-morrow, to see if the town will direct the committee to hire them, or come to some other method to procure them, and men for the

future." The town voted, "that the committee be directed to hire the men that are now called for as heretofore;" and also, "to hire men for the future as they are called for, without calling the town together."

At a meeting on the 18th of November, the town granted £120 in addition to the sum granted last spring, to pay the hire given to Continental soldiers. At the same time, sums were granted to pay for several things relating to the war, as follows:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| " Journey to Watertown, after powder,         | £2, 14s.  |
| " " "   | 2, 6.     |
| " Concord, after lead,                        | 2, 17, 6. |
| " Worcester, to join the Committee of Safety, | 2, 0, 0." |

In the beginning of 1778, the town manifested an unflagging zeal in the cause of the country. In town meeting on the 23d of January, the Articles of Confederation of the United States were read. The same meeting "voted and granted £290 to be assessed and collected with the town rate in order to pay into the Provincial Treasury agreeable to a late Act of Court granting liberty to any town to have any part of their quota of State money put on interest." This was reconsidered. On the 2d of February a committee of three persons was chosen to "peruse the Articles of Confederation, and report at March meeting. Chose Ebenezer Sherwin, Francis Bridge, and Robert Bradish." Thus cautiously did the town consider any proposition to bring the State into political relations with the other States as a united body.

At the annual meeting, March 2, Francis Goodhue, James Coolidge, Ebenezer Sherwin, Israel Whiton and Solomon Bigelow, were chosen the committee of Correspondence. A new committee was also chosen, which shows the care of the town for the families of soldiers: "Dea. Moses Hale, David Brown, Ebenezer Howe and Benjamin Brown, a Committee to take care of the Continental soldiers' families agreeable to the Act of Court."

At the same meeting, 1778, a Report of the committee chosen by the town to estimate the services that had been done since the war began, was presented in these words:

"The following estimations were consented to by the major part of the committee, viz:



|        |   |      |      |     |
|--------|---|------|------|-----|
| First. | 8½ months to Cambridge, in the year 1775,-----  | £15, | 0s., | 0d. |
| 2ly.   | 1½ to Dorchester, in 1776,-----   | 2,   | 10,  | 0.  |
| 3ly.   | 2 months to Dorchester, in 1776,-----   | 3,   | 6,   | 8.  |
| 4ly.   | One year in Continental servis, in 1776,-----   | 25,  | 0,   | 0.  |
| 5ly.   | 5 months to York, in 1776,-----   | 16,  | 0,   | 0.  |
| 6ly.   | 4 months to Tie.,* in 1776,-----  | 16,  | 0,   | 0.  |
| 7ly.   | 4 months to Dorchester, in 1776,-----   | 6,   | 6,   | 8.  |
| 8ly.   | 2 months to York, in 1776,-----   | 7,   | 10,  | 0.  |
| 9ly.   | 3 months to York, in 1777,-----   | 9,   | 10,  | 0.  |
| 10ly.  | As to those men that paid ten pounds to hire the Continental men for three years' servis, we look upon it that they should be allowed equal to three months' servis that was done in the last part of the year 1777, being----- |      |      |     |
|        |   | 14,  | 0,   | 0.  |
| 11ly.  | 2 months to Rhodeisland, 1777,-----   | 5,   | 10,  | 0.  |
| 12ly.  | 1 month to Stillwater, in 1777,-----  | 6,   | 0,   | 0.  |
| 13ly.  | 1 week to Bennington alarm, in 1777,-----   | 2,   | 0,   | 0.  |
| 14ly.  | 1 month to Stillwater, in 1777,-----  | 4,   | 10,  | 0.  |
| 15ly.  | 6 months to Brookfield, in 1778,-----   | 6,   | 0,   | 0.  |
| 16ly.  | 3 months in the Continental servis, in 1778,-----   | 15,  | 0,   | 0.  |
| 17ly.  | 3 months to Stillwater, Albany, &c., in 1777,---  | 14,  | 0,   | 0.  |

As to them men that went with Lt. Parmenter and Capt. Oaks, we leave it to the town to do as they think proper.

*Voted*, and allowed 25sh. to those men who marched on the alarm on the 19th of April, 1775.

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| BENJA. RICE,    | } <i>Committee chose</i> |
| ALEX'DR MAY,    |                          |
| AMOS MERRIAM,   |                          |
| JOHN DAY,       |                          |
| DANIEL HUBBARD, |                          |
| JOSHUA GALE,    | } <i>by the Town.</i>    |

The above Report accepted at an adjournment of the annual meeting, March A. D., 1778.

18ly. As to Nathan Knight, that was drafted to go to Brookfield, we think that he ought to be allowed 25s.

19ly. Them men that went with Lt. Parmenter, we think they ought to be allowed 30s."

In May, "*Voted*, and granted £3 per month as credit for those men now in servis at Rutland."

\*Ticonderoga?

## SECTION 6,—PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The year 1779 witnessed the same activity in regard to the public service. On the 14th of January a meeting was called for the next day, the warrant being served personally on all the voters by two constables. The town allowed £30 to the committee chosen to provide for soldiers' families, which they paid to Dr. Green in cash, besides a note. Also, 18s, to Abel Wilder for going to Cambridge to get a State note for the town.

At the annual meeting on the first of March, the town "chose Capt. John Boynton, William Whitney, James McElwain, a committee to hire men for the war." Then "Voted that the above committee hire men for the war as they are called for, without calling the town together; and when there is occasion for it that they hire money for the purpose, and the town will indemnify them for so doing. Voted, to allow 6s. per pair for 15 pair of shoes, which the Selectmen provided for the soldiers in the year 1778, which sum they gave more than the Court's Committee allowed. Voted, to allow £4, 18, 4, for one month's service Edward Putnam has done in the war. Voted to allow ten pound credit to those men who paid a fine of ten pound for not performing the servis they were called upon to do." What the 'servis' was that was not performed, is not recorded, but it is presumable that the town considered the men excusable. The town also "Voted and allowed £28 to Lt. Samuel Prentice for his done in the three years' State servis."

May 20, "Voted £4.10 to Samuel Newton for 2 months' servis he did in the Jersies in the year 1776."

At a meeting held on the 3d of August, it was voted "to comply with the spirit of the Resolves passed in the Convention at Concord on the 14th of July preceding." A committee was chosen, consisting of Dr. Israel Whiton, Dea. Moses Hale and Capt. John Boynton, to prepare some plan in regard to prices, and submit it to the town. At the adjourned meeting, August 31, this vote was reconsidered, and then it was voted "to comply with the spirit of the Resolves of the Convention at Worcester, held on the 11th inst., respecting prices. Chose a committee of nine to state the prices of those articles not enumerated in the proceedings of said Convention. Chose Moses Hale, Seth Oaks, Matthew Knight, John Beemis, Samuel Noyes,

Ebenezer Richardson, Francis Goodhue, Theodore May, John Darling. Then chose a committee of thirteen to see that the proceedings of said Convention are complied with, viz: Francis Bridge, Joseph Boynton, John Beemis, Moses Hale, Joshua Gale, Samuel Stone, Benjamin Brown, Daniel Hubbard, Matthew Knight, Seth Oaks, Ebenezer Sherwin, Francis Goodhue." The people were terribly in earnest. Such committees could not, of course, "fix" the prices of things, but they could by correspondence arrange to have the charges nearly uniform throughout the Colony, and so prevent imposition upon the ignorant. Another meeting was held at Cambridge on the first Wednesday in October, to which the town sent "Moses," according to the Records; probably Dea. Moses Hale. On the 19th of October, the town voted to choose a committee of nine to set a price on the necessities of life, labor; &c., agreeable to the Resolves of the late Convention at Concord, and "likewise to see that such regulations of prices are complied with." Chose Samuel Stimpson, John Day, Seth Oaks, Joseph Boynton, Abel Wilder, Moses Hale, Joshua Gale, Thaddeus Bowman, John Boynton. The action adopting the prices agreed on at Concord, was reconsidered, as we have seen, but in this last vote, the town went back of the Conventions at Worcester and Cambridge to that of Concord again, and therefore the report of the committee made on the 3d of August, is given in full, in these words:

"That the price of teaming do not exceed 27s. per mile, per ton.

West India rum, £7, 14, per gallon.

New England rum, 5, 9, "

Molasses, 5, 5, "

Coffee, 1, 1, per lb.

Sugar from 13s. to 15s., per lb.

Salt, best quality, £14, 10s., per bushel.

Other West India articles in the same proportion.

Entertainment.—Meal of Victuals, boiled, 12s.

Flip and toddy, 14s. per mug or bowl.

Other articles in the same proportion.

Farming labor, £3 per day.

Blacksmith—Shoeing a horse, steeled, £5, 10, and all other work in proportion.

Men's best shoes £8, 10, per pair, and other work in proportion.

Best Wool, £1, 10 per lb.—Flax, 15s. per lb.

The committee consider the above as a sufficient enumeration by which the prices of every article of consumption and commerce may be regulated in the same proportion, and that none evade or infringe upon the above regulations; or none exceed the prices expressed or understood, without being able to render a sufficient or satisfactory reason.

N. B. Those articles regulated by the Convention not here enumerated, the committee refer to the town.

Rye at £4, 10, per bushel."

The town "Voted and accepted of the above prices as they stand."

It is probable that the committee chosen to see this plan enforced, could not carry it out in all respects, but the "spirit of the Resolves" was generally complied with.

On the 29th of November it was voted to allow "Messrs. Matthew Knight, Daniel Goodridge, Joseph Wilder and Ebenezer Richardson, each of them, as much as those men who hired as Continental soldiers for three years."

In 1780, on the 20th of March, John Beemis, Amos Merriam and John Day were chosen a committee to hire men for the war. May 29, Chose Abel Wilder to search into the reason why the town was fined £1200 in the last State tax, and get the same taken off if possible.

On the third of July, Joshua Gale, Constable, was required forthwith to notify and warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants qualified by law to act in town affairs, who lived west of the road from the meeting-house to Jonathan Whitcomb's, to meet the next day, July 4, at 2 o'clock P. M. In like manner, Lieut. Amos Merriam was required to warn all who lived east of the road from the meeting-house to Jonathan Whitcomb's, and north of the road to Ashburnham, excepting Mr. Bemis, Buttrick and Flint. John Day carried a similar warning to all living north of Royalston road, and west of the north road. Ezra Hide notified the remaining part of the town. One article in the warrant was "to see if the town will come into some method to expedite the raising ten men from the militia which are called for." Also, "to grant some suitable sum or sums of money to pay soldiers' hire," &c. They were also to warn "all the male inhabitants from the age of sixteen years old to sixty-five, to appear on the meeting-house Common at two of the clock on said day, P. M., with their arms, upon the

pains and penalties of the law in that case made and provided." The meeting was opened at 2, and Benjamin Brown was chosen Moderator. Adjourned to 5, when the meeting "Voted and granted £50,000 for the purpose of hiring men for the war, and to defray other town charges." At the same time eighty-five dollars per day were allowed as the wages of a delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

#### SECTION 7.—DEPRECIATED CURRENCY.

By this time, as will be inferred from the above vote, the currency was in hopeless disorder, and the governmental "promises to pay" had greatly depreciated. The Continental paper was at par at the opening of 1777; in a year, it took four and a half dollars of currency to buy one of specie; in another year, \$1 in specie was equal to \$8.38 in paper; in 1780 it took \$32.50 to buy a silver dollar. In 1781, the rate was "ninety for one," that is, \$90 in paper for \$1 in specie. We need not wonder that in 1782 the town voted "that the Constable and Collectors be directed to receive no more paper money for town rates."

In one case, within a day's ride from Winchendon, a clergyman paid his whole salary for the year for a pig four weeks old. It should be said, to the honor of his people, that they afterwards took measures to make up the deficiency. In 1781, \$412,000 were needed to defray town charges.

The following citations reveal the spirit of our forefathers, while evincing the methods they took to support the government. "Oct. 23, Voted to choose a committee to carry into execution the Resolves of the Court respecting providing beef. Chose William Whitney, [the best judge of cattle in the town,] Francis Bridge and Joshua Gale. Voted that the above committee be directed to purchase two yoke of cattle so as to deliver them at Petersham next Wednesday. Also, to pay the money for the remaining part of the beef after two yoke of cattle have been delivered, if it can be collected." "Dec. 27, Voted that the committee chose last March to hire men for the war, be directed to engage this town's quota of men for three years, and report at the adjournment of this meeting, how they can get them, and what security they require."

1781. January 1. "Granted £10,000 to procure beef that is now called for, and to help procure Continental soldiers." January 29. The following vote indicates the state of the currency in the early part of 1781. "Voted to pay £300 to Thadeus Bowman for £7, 14, 6, due to him in March, 1778. In the March meeting, £15 per day for labor on the roads was allowed. At the same meeting a committee was authorized to hire men and money for the war without calling the town together. On the 25th of June a committee was chosen to purchase the remaining part of the beef that is required of the town, as may be required the ensuing year. August 6. All sums of money granted to be considered to be in hard money. Voted £300 to pay towards the hire of three years' men. Also voted £173, 6, 8, to pay for the hire of three and five months' men, beef, and other things."

The design in making the preceding citations from the Records, has been to show in their own words, the opinions and the deeds of the men of the revolutionary era. Nearly everything has been copied that relates in any way to the war, and it is believed that no one really interested in the part which the town took in the war, will consider the narrative tedious. Incidentally, the reader will learn who were the most prominent men in civil and military life in the period under review. Unfortunately we have no record of the labor and sacrifices made by the virtuous and patriotic women of that day, and it is too late to draw anything definite from tradition. It is known, generally, that they wrought with their own hands, to spin, weave and make up clothing for their fathers, husbands, sons and brothers, who went to fight the battles of freedom. Besides, they aided the old men and the boys by laboring on the farm in planting, hay and harvest-time, and also in the care of the cattle. They were the mates and mothers of heroes.

It would be impossible, at this late day, to give a perfect history of what was done by Winchendon in the war of the revolution; but much may be gathered from the foregoing pages; and the following extract from the Records is of great value. On the 20th of March, 1780, John Beemis, Amos Merriam and John Day, were chosen a committee to hire men for the war. In April, 1782, they made a Report, which of course does not go back previous to the time of their appointment, covering about two years. The Report is as follows:

## \* Account of money paid by the committee for hiring men.

|   |              |   |             |
|---|--------------|---|-------------|
| To Jesse Ellis,   | £535, 10, 0. | Samuel Stimpson,  | 22, 10, 0.  |
| To Samuel Russell,  | 422, 0, 0.   | Joseph Wilder,  | 105, 0, 0.  |
| To John Heywood,  | 150, 2, 0.   | Isaac Stimpson,   | 30, 0, 0.   |
| Jesse Ellis, by picking<br>and sowing 4 acres<br>of land, | 480, 0, 0.   | Josiah Beeman,  | 19, 10, 0.  |
| To Amos Merriam,<br>for Daniel,                           | 385, 10, 0.  | William Whitcomb,   | 36, 0, 0.   |
| To Jesse Ellis,   | 141, 0, 0.   | Samuel Stone,   | 51, 0, 0.   |
| Moses Potter,   | 150, 2, 0.   | Abner Hale,   | 15, 0, 0.   |
| Joseph Day,   | 2212, 4, 0.  | Committee's Rec't,  | 216, 0, 0.  |
| Abel Brown,   | 245, 5, 0.   | William Whitney,  | 280, 10, 0. |
| Jonathan Smith,   | 321, 4, 6.   | Joseph Day,   | 150, 8, 0.  |
| David Smith,  | 150, 2, 0.   | Jesse Ellis,  | 141, 0, 0.  |
| William Poor,   | 454, 12, 0.  | Committee's Rec't,  | 30, 0, 0.   |
| Samuel Griggs,  | 180, 2, 0.   | Benjamin Brown,   | 99, 0, 0.   |
| James Stoddard,   | 240, 0, 0.   | Committee's Rec't,  | 106, 10, 0. |
| In hard money, £6.  |              | Jacob Hale,   | 57, 0, 0.   |
| Zenas Stoddard,   | 240, 0, 0.   | Joseph Day,   | 152, 16, 0. |
| In hard money, £4, 10.                                    |              | James Noyes,  | 160, 0, 0.  |
| Edward Payson,  | 1423, 0, 0.  | Edward Withington,  | 161, 0, 0.  |
| " "   | 90, 0, 0.    | Joseph Day,   | 90, 0, 0.   |
| Francis Goodhue,  | 150, 2, 0.   | Joseph Boynton,   | 100, 0, 0.  |
| Nathan Maynard,   | 390, 0, 0.   | Hezekiah Hancock,   | 40, 10, 0.  |
| Jeremiah Lord,  | 352, 2, 0.   | Committee's Rec't,  | 61, 4, 0.   |
| Silas Bemis,  | 390, 0, 0.   | Abel Brown,   | 36, 0, 0.   |
| Nathaniel Bixby,  | 498, 0, 0.   | Stephen Barrett,  | 15, 0, 0.   |
| Paid as mileage to the<br>three months' men,              | 480, 0, 0.   | Joseph Day,   | 77, 4, 0.   |
| Joseph Wilder,  | 94, 10, 0.   | Benjamin Rice,  | 57, 0, 0.   |
| John Burr,  | 87, 0, 0.    | Daniel Hubbard,   | 45, 0, 0.   |
| Hezekiah Hancock,   | 51, 0, 0.    | Joseph Boynton,   | 135, 0, 0.  |
| Ebenezer How,   | 12, 0, 0.    | Committee's Rec't,  | 563, 15, 7. |
| Samuel Noyes,   | 33, 6, 0.    | Edward Payson,  | 288, 7, 0.  |
| Joseph Day,   | 82, 17, 0.   | Committee's Rec't,  | 30, 0, 0.   |
| John Boynton,   | 393, 15, 0.  | Levi Nichols,   | 600, 0, 0.  |
| Committee Receipt,  | 31, 10, 0.   | James Noyes,  | 27, 0, 0.   |
| Phillips Switzer,   | 110, 5, 0.   | Abraham Brigham,  | 209, 0, 0.  |
| Samuel Prentice,  | 81, 0, 0.    | Abel Wilder,  | 37, 10, 0.  |
| Phillips Switzer,   | 210, 0, 0.   | Joseph Boynton,   | 160, 0, 0.  |
| " "   | 228, 0, 0.   | Gardner Moor,   | 468, 0, 0.  |
| Solomon Biglow,   | 160, 0, 0.   | Amos Hale,  | 30, 0, 0.   |
| Thadæus Bowman,   | 84, 0, 0.    | Uriah Crooks,   | 45, 0, 0.   |
| Abner Hale,   | 200, 2, 0.   | Samuel Noyes,   | 160, 0, 0.  |
| Solomon Biglow,   | 10, 10, 0.   | Uriah Crooks,   | 27, 0, 0.   |
| John Day,   | 6, 2, 0.     | James Stoddard,   | 30, 0, 0.   |
| Amos Hale,  | 6, 0, 0.     | Money the committee<br>received by the way<br>of David Smith, | 112, 10, 0. |
|   |              | Committee's Rec't,  | 46, 16, 0.  |

## SECTION. 8.—THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The names in the preceding list are, in several instances, repeated, and some of them occur in the following roll. What were the services rendered by the men whose names have been given on the foregoing page, with the exception of those which are to be found in the columns following, cannot now be ascertained. It is certain that some of them were in service for a short time during the last two years of the war.

The following list contains the names of those men of Winchendon, who are known to have borne arms in the revolutionary war. The larger part of them were inhabitants of the town at the time. A portion of them moved hither after the war, but their names are recorded in the roll of honor, because they reveal to us the character of the people who settled here in the first generation.

The following men were in the battle of Bunker Hill, viz :

Capt. Abel Wilder,  
Serg't. Benjamin Rice,  
Samuel Bradish,  
Elisha Brown,  
Timothy Darling,

John Day,  
Nathan Day,  
Amos Hale,  
David Stoddard.

The following were "Minute Men," ready to take the field at a moment's warning, all of whom served more or less during the war.

Roger Bates,  
Thaddeus Bowman,  
John Boynton,  
Stephen Boynton,  
Samuel Bradish,  
Elisha Brown,  
Samuel Brown,  
Zebulon Conant,  
John Darling,  
John Day,  
Nathan Day,  
David Goodridge,  
Jacob Hale,

Moses Hale,  
Bill Hancock,  
Benjamin Kimball,  
Amos Merriam,  
Dudley Parley, or Perley,  
John N. Parson, Jr.,  
John Porter,  
Benjamin Rice,  
Ephraim Sawyer,  
Eb'r Sherwin, (drummer,)  
Abijah Stimson,  
Ephraim Stimson,  
Joseph Wilder.

The following, though not at Bunker Hill, nor in the roll of "Minute Men," were soldiers in active service.

Gamaliel Beaman,  
Solomon Bigelow,  
Joseph Boynton,  
George Coffin,

Jewett B. Darling,  
John Darling,  
Daniel Day,  
Joseph Day,



Eliphalet Goodridge,  
 Jacob Hale,  
 Eden London,\*  
 Theodore May,  
 James McElwain,  
 Isaac Nichols,  
 Isaac Noyes,  
 James Noyes,  
 Seth Oaks,  
 Richard Parsons,

David Poor,  
 Nathan Pushey,  
 David Rice,  
 Ahimaaz Sherwin, (drummer,)  
 Jonathan Smith,  
 Robert Steel,  
 Samuel Steel,  
 Luther Stimpson,†  
 Joseph Wilder.

The following men went into the war from other towns, but soon afterwards moved into Winchendon.

Capt. Samuel Baldwin,  
 Daniel Balcom,  
 Thornton Barrett,  
 Andrew Benjamin,  
 Asa Bowker,  
 John Brooks,  
 Levi Brooks,  
 Stephen Emery,  
 John Estey,  
 John Fessenden,  
 John Flint,  
 Thomas Flint,  
 John Gill,  
 Capt. Thomas Greateon,  
 Thomas Greenwood,  
 Daniel Hubbard,  
 Benjamin Hubbard,  
 Capt. Lemuel Heywood,

Eleazar Parks,  
 Ephraim Parmenter,  
 William Poland, Sr.,  
 Lt. Col. Paul Raymond,  
 Lt. Paul Raymond,  
 James Raymond,‡  
 Phinehas Rice,  
 David Roberts,  
 ———Sawtell,  
 David Smith,  
 Ebenezer Smith,  
 Seth Tucker,  
 Jedediah Tuttle,  
 Capt. Jacob Wales,  
 Jacob Whitney,  
 Dr. Israel Whiton,  
 Col. Jacob B. Woodbury.

A few personal anecdotes and incidents will be a fitting conclusion to this chapter.

Stephen Emery, who moved into the town after the revolution, was in the war, and fought at Bunker Hill. His daughter, Mrs. Cummings, used to relate that her father's gun became so heated, by rapid firing, that he was obliged to desist until it became cooled.

George Coffin, afterwards the well known Dea. Coffin, entered the service at the age of sixteen, and remained three years. He was such

\*Eden London was the slave of Daniel Goodridge, and as such was not liable to do military duty; but he served in lieu of his master, on condition of becoming a freeman.

†Son of the first minister.

‡Went as a substitute about three weeks.

a slender stripling that the recruiting officer inquired if he could shoot a man. He thought he could, with a good gun. At the time of his discharge, the army was in Virginia, and he came home on foot, stopping at various places to earn enough to provide food. How different from the return of our soldiers after putting down the rebellion, by rail and steamboat!

Moses Potter was very short in stature, and in order to "pass" him, he was provided with high heeled shoes, by John Day, one of the town's committee for hiring men. He made a good soldier, though not a giant.

David Smith assisted in placing the hand-cuffs upon André. He was a blacksmith.

Seth Tucker was near West Point at the time of Arnold's treason, and the capture of André. He told me that the army was a "dreadful wicked place." He was a man of warm and simple-hearted piety, who was shocked by the profaneness and vice of the camp.

Luther Stimpson was a mere stripling of sixteen when he entered the army, but came out with credit.

John Darling and Phillip Rollins went with Arnold, through the wilds of Maine, to Quebec, and was there when the brave Montgomery fell, and was borne from the thick of the fight by young Aaron Burr.

Lieut. David Poor was out several years. For awhile he was a prisoner in New York, when he worked as a tailor, and received good pay from the British officers. While in the army, a soldier made a bet that he could walk a certain number of rods with a pumpkin on his head. Poor took up the wager. The other started, and was drawing near to the gaol, when Poor, determined not to lose his bet, raised his gun and shot the pumpkin from the soldier's head. It is related that when he came home, after several years' absence, and dressed in an officer's uniform, with a sword by his side, his wife did not recognize him. She prepared food for him as a returning soldier, and made inquiries about the war, but could not be induced to give him lodgings. At length, thinking him indelicately importunate to remain, she seized the long fire-shovel, and drove him out. As he passed through the door, he turned and laughingly said: "Miss Poor, I guess you don't know me." She knew him at once, when her proper indignation gave way to gladness for his return.



CHAS. P. M. S. 1847

MR SETH TUCKER SENR



Smith, above-mentioned, lost one of his hands, but would not abandon the service. By the use of a hook, he contrived to load and fire, and to hit his mark.

But the stories of the soldiers, if they could be collected, would fill a volume. It is necessary to pass from the history of individuals, to that of the town. It may however be proper to record in this place, that Jonathan Pollard, Aaron Ellis, Thornton Barrett, and James Bradish, Sr., were in the last French war. Barrett was shot in the body at Fort Edward, and all of them saw hard service. In the same war, Robert Bradish, Sr., was a scout.

## CHAPTER VII.—SHAYS' REBELLION.

“Ah me ! what perils do environ  
 The man that meddles with cold iron !  
 For though Dame Fortune seems to smile,  
 And leer upon him for a while,  
 She'll after show him, in the nick  
 Of all his glories, a dog-trick.”

BUTLER.

## SECTION I.—GRIEVANCES.

The next event in order, in connection with the history of the town, which requires distinct treatment, is what is called “Shays’ Rebellion.” The temptation to give a general account of this affair, will be avoided, while attention will be confined, as far as possible, to the part which Winchendon shared in it, with many other towns extending from Bristol to Berkshire. The people of this place felt the deepest interest in the matter, and there was a brief season when war seemed imminent even here between neighbors, relatives and friends. There are probably aged persons who remember the old ballad about Shays that began in this way :—

“My name is Shays,  
 In former days  
 In Pelham I did dwell, Sir,  
 I was obliged to quit that place  
 Because I did rebel, Sir.”

If not, they remember, without doubt, hearing of Shays and his rebellion, in their childhood.

After the revolutionary war many people were very poor, and many soldiers who had fought and suffered severely, found themselves destitute. It was a hard time to pay debts, and even honest people felt that their creditors were too pressing. Besides, loose notions were abroad, and some held the idea that the true policy was to divide all property

equally among the people. One man being asked what should be done, when in the course of years, some men became richer than others, expressed the wish of many in his reply: "divide again." The discontent was so great in Massachusetts, as to create alarm in the breast of Washington and other patriots throughout the Union, lest all the fruits of the war of independence would be lost. Complaints began to be made before the return of peace, and the acknowledgment of our nationality by the king of England, but there was no actual outbreak except mobs at Northampton and one or two other places, for two or three years. The hardships of the people increased however, and many became impatient. That large numbers should be in debt, after so long a war, was inevitable. Moreover all the evidence of tradition and records concurs in the verdict, that intemperance had greatly increased, as well as vice and immorality generally. The irregular habits of camp life, and the prevalence of French infidelity had done much in the way of demoralizing the people. The only remedy for the unhappy state of affairs, was a reformation of morals, industry and frugality. But this process would require the self-denial which many were not ready to endure. It is doubtless true also that many persons who had means; speculators who had become wealthy during the war, and others, took advantage of the necessities of the poor, and those in moderate circumstances, and pressed for the payment of debts when liquidation was impossible without ruinous sacrifice to the debtor.

The movement finally took the shape of an attack on the Courts of Justice, for the purpose of delaying judgment against debtors. The State was in debt to the amount of several millions, including the State debt, what was due to officers and soldiers, and its proportion of the national debt. Probably the State could now carry more easily the load of \$100,000,000, than our fathers could bear what weighed upon them in 1786. Their situation and wants may be inferred from the action of County Conventions held in 1786, at Concord, Leicester, Paxton and Hatfield, in the month of August and later in the autumn. The evils they wished to have redressed were: "Sitting of the General Court in Boston; 2, The want of a circulating system; 3, The abuses in the practice of the law, and the exorbitance of the fee table; 4, The existence of the Courts of Common Pleas in their present mode of administration; 5, The appropriating the revenue arising from the im-

post and excise to the payment of the interest of the State securities; 6, The unreasonable and unnecessary grants made by the General Court to the Attorney General and others; 7, The Servants of the government being too numerous, and having too great salaries; 8, The existence of the Senate." The Conventions expressed devotion to the government, even while favoring measures that undermined all existing authority. For example, the Convention at Paxton, November 3, 1786, declared that however they might suffer in their characters, persons and estates, they should think themselves "happy if they could, in the least degree, contribute to restore harmony to the Commonwealth, and to support the weight of a tottering empire."

To carry out their design, they organized into armed bands, led generally by officers who had fought in the Revolution. It is to be noted that no officers of distinction, and none above the rank of captain, were visible in the movement; though it has been the opinion of not a few, that such a wide-spread and concerted outbreak taking a military form, must have been fostered by men of capacity and wicked ambition, who were directing in secret, till matters should come to such a head that they could openly assume command with the hope of success, and perhaps of becoming the head of a new order of things.

These bands met in Taunton, Concord, Worcester, Springfield, Northampton and Lenox, and in several cases succeeded in forcing an adjournment of the Courts, and thus compelled the creditor class to wait for the payment of their dues. This action of the rebels, for such they finally became, made it necessary for the State to take extraordinary measures for the maintenance of its authority. But before narrating the closing scene, when the rebellion was suppressed, it is our part to follow the proceedings of the town in its corporate capacity. The votes passed will be given with sufficient fulness to exhibit the state of things here at the time. It will be seen by the reader that there was almost a dramatic interest in the proceedings of a town meeting, which in ordinary times are prosaic and dull.

On the 4th of February, 1786, the town voted to instruct their representative in the General Court—Abel Wilder—"to use his influence to have an act passed making personal, and in some cases, real estate a tender to satisfy debts, when the action is commenced, or to give any other instruction the town shall think proper." The committee of in-



structions were Levi Nichols, Samuel Crosby, Stephen Barrett, Benjamin Kidder and Dea. Hale. The town voted in "favor of the [proposed] tender act," and "against having paper money," and then "to have paper money, provided a tender act could not be obtained."

In these days if there was general discontent, it would be manifested in the organization of a party to seek redress in a peaceable way, but in 1786, this course was not taken. No arrangements were made to change the State government, but the towns expressed the general sentiment in the election of their representatives. Thus the discontent ran into violence and military resistance. At the election in May, the votes in this town show that no expectation of redress was expected from the election of governor, and other State officials.

Gov. James Bowdoin had 12 votes, John Hancock, 7, Benjamin Lincoln, 4, for the office of governor; Lieut. Gov. Benjamin Lincoln had 7 votes, and Thomas Cushing 4 for the second office. Abel Wilder had 17 for Senator and Councillor. At the same time the latter was unanimously chosen representative.

#### SECTION 2.—EXCITED TOWN MEETINGS.

On the 11th of August the question came up in town meeting whether a delegate should be sent to a Convention of Worcester county, to be held by adjournment, at the house of George Bruce, in Leicester, on the 15th of the month. The motion passed in the affirmative, when Mr. Samuel Litch was unanimously chosen for the above purpose. A committee of five was chosen to draw up instructions to the delegate, viz: Levi Nichols, Ebenezer Richardson, Matthew Knight, James Mc Elwain, and James Steel. The meeting adjourned for one hour, that the committee might have time to draw up the instructions. These are not on the Records. The meeting then adjourned to the 21st, to hear a report from Mr. Litch, when he laid the proceedings of the Convention before the town. On the 6th day of October, Mr. Litch brought a petition of Convention—probably some later meeting of the same Convention—before the town, when the town voted "it agreeable to their mind." Mr. Litch was instructed to attend an adjourned meeting of the Convention. Then adjourned to November 21st, at which time Mr. Litch presented an address of the Convention to the people, which being read, the town "voted it agreeable to their minds."

Adjourned to December 18. An Act of the General Court was then read. This was probably the Act relating to private debts, intended to favor the debtor class. The meeting then adjourned to January 1, 1787. All this time the insurgents were in arms, and the Government troops were moving to the scene of action.

At the adjourned meeting, on the first day of the new year, the address from the General Court to the people was read, and several acts and laws. These laws included a "tender act;" an "act of indemnity;" an "act reducing fee bills;" an "act for the more easy paying of back taxes;" and an "act regulating the Courts of Common Pleas and Sessions of the Peace." They were all intended to remove every just cause of complaint, and thus take away all excuse for resisting the Government. At the same time, while showing this kindly regard for the suffering classes, the Government maintained its honor and authority by raising a sufficient force to quell the rebellion.

Before giving the action of this meeting, it is necessary to go back a few days, and bring up a few other proceedings bearing on the subject before it for consideration. Here is a document which shows the state of mind quite prevalent here, and gives the names of many of the actors.

*"To the Selectmen of Winchendon:*

GENTLEMEN: We the subscribers request that you [call] a town meeting, to be held on Thursday, the 21th of this instant, at two of the clock in the afternoon, to act on the following articles, viz:

First, to choose a moderator to govern said meeting.

2dly, To take into consideration a letter directed to the Town Clerk of Winchendon, respecting the Regulators, (as they are called) signed by Rugles Spooner, and all letters and papers that has, or may be sent to the said town of Winchendon, before the said meeting herein before requested, respecting the present mode of government within this State, and the opposition made by the above-mentioned Regulators, and take the minds of the town thereon, or act on the whole as they shall think proper.

December 15th, 1786.

Francis Bridge, Eli Smith, Joshua Gale, Jeremiah Lord, Ahimaaz Sherwin, Asa Robinson, Paul Boynton, Ebenezer Sherwin, Daniel Hubbard, Solomon Bigelow, Bill Hancock, David Stoddard, James Steel, Levi Bixby, Amos Heywood, Samuel Steel, Nathan Knight, Daniel Balcom, Samuel Noyes, Nathan Flint, John Beemis, Bartholomew Stearns, Jonathan Stimp-

son, Moses Hale, Abner Hale, Abner Curtice, Ebenezer Richardson, Adonijah Bixby, Samuel Litch, Thos. Greeton, Isaac Prougty, Amariah Haven, Thomas Rugg, Bemsly Lord, Jacob Hale, Amos Hale, Jewett Darling, Jonathan Smith."

This petition was so cautiously worded that the opinions of the signers could not be positively inferred at this late day, but it is known that their sympathies were with the Regulators. They took care, however, to avoid all action in town meeting, which would involve themselves in the guilt of rebellion. The meeting was held in accordance with this petition, on the 21st of December, and Samuel Litch was chosen Moderator. Upon a motion being made "to see whether the town will take up the letter under consideration, the vote passed in the affirmative." A motion was then made "to see if the town will petition the Governor and Council to liberate Capt. Shattuck and others, taken by Government, agreeable to the request in said letter." Carried in the affirmative. This Capt. Shattuck was a prominent leader in the Shays movement, in Middlesex county. His violence had led justly to his arrest and imprisonment. A motion was then made "to see if the town will petition the Senate and House of Representatives to suspend the Court of Common Pleas, till a new choice of the General Court." The yeas had it. Then chose the following committee to draw up the petition: Dea. Moses Hale, Eli Smith, Francis Bridge, Matthew Knight, and Ebenezer Richardson. Then the meeting adjourned to January 1, 1787. Here follows the petition.

"To his Excellency JAMES BOWDOIN, ESQ.

The Petition of the town of Winchendon humbly sheweth:

That whereas, there is great disturbance as to the administration of government in this State, and it appears to this town that it will not do to settle matters by fire and sword; but for the parties to unite in a peaceable way and manner, — this is therefore to pray your Excellency to immediately liberate Capt. Shattuck and others taken in the county of Middlesex, and confined in the town of Boston, in consequence of the opposition they have made to the present mode of government; and as it is our opinion it will be the most direct way to still the commotions now subsisting among the people. And your petitioners, in duty bound, shall ever pray."

We now return to the meeting on the first of January, 1787, to which the meeting of the 18th, and that of the 21st of December, were adjourned.

The address and acts having been read, as stated above, a marked effect was produced. The majority of the meeting were evidently convinced that the government was right, though only ten days before, the petition in favor of Capt. Shattuck had been approved. It was first moved "to see if the town will continue a member at the Convention." Decided in the negative. Then it was moved "to see if the town will dismiss their member from any further service in Convention." The yeas had it, and the meeting adjourned. There was another meeting three days later, in which the contest was renewed; but the government men were still in the ascendant. According to the Records, "the draft—that is, of the Petition to the Governor—came up again, when it was moved to see if the town will accept the same in the present form." No, the town will not accept it. A motion was then made to amend the paper; but the town would not amend it. Growing bolder, the friends of government then moved "to see if the town will vote to recall the Petition sent to his Excellency the Governor, to liberate Capt. Shattuck," &c. This motion passed in the affirmative. Whether this vote to recall merely means to rescind, or whether the committee had sent off the Petition, and this vote was to send for it, is uncertain; but it is clear that this meeting was resolved to stand by the constituted authority. The meeting then adjourned to the 15th instant.

And now the tables were turned. The other party rallied in force, and reversed the former action of the town. The first motion was to dissolve the meeting; but this was negatived. After an hour's adjournment, the meeting again assembled, when it was moved "to see if the town will reconsider a vote passed at a former adjournment of this meeting. Said vote is as follows, to wit: "to see if the town will vote to recall a petition sent to his Excellency the Governor, to liberate Capt. Shattuck," &c. The vote being put, it passed in the affirmative." That is, the town had voted a petition, then it had voted to recall the petition, and now it voted to reconsider the vote of recall, and the result was, that the petition was the final action of the town. The meeting then adjourned, and the matter rested. Nothing farther was done in town meeting in relation to the insurrection, or the grievances that brought it on; but at the subsequent March meeting, the Shays men had the majority, and put their friends in office, making an almost

clean sweep of those who were elected the year before, unless some of them happened to be on their side. But in the following May, Abel Wilder, a friend of the government, was sent again to the General Court. This might have been due to his great personal popularity, for the people never lost confidence in him amid all the changes of the times.

Having thus given the Records of the exciting town meetings, it is necessary to return and present some view of the action of individuals in relation to the same subject. And here use will be made to some extent, of the words of Dr. Whiton. The government raised a force of 4,400 men to bring the rebels to submission. "When the order came to draft this town's quota of the troops, one of the most exciting scenes occurred ever witnessed in this place. The large militia company, the only one then in the place, was assembled on the centre Common. A numerous crowd of other citizens stood around, of whom a decided majority were Shays' men, many of them good men and honest, but goaded on by trying times, to measures which sober second thought disapproved. There was a considerable minority of firm and resolute men, determined to support the existing government. The parties, with excited feelings, now stood face to face. The Shays men threatened that if the government men raised the required quota of soldiers, they would send on two to one to strengthen the insurgents. The government men looked on with deep anxiety, fearing they should be unable to raise the men. When the drummer began his round to beat up for volunteers, it was to both sides, a moment of painful suspense; all voices were hushed; but the resolution of one man soon changed the scene. William Whitney, who came into the town in 1744, a prominent and decided government man, father of the late well-known Capt. Phinehas Whitney, addressing his son, who was one of the company, exclaimed aloud, 'Turn out, Phin.' Immediately *Phin* stepped from the ranks and followed the drummer. It was a bold example and had an important influence on the result. Successively one after another followed the example, and the required number of men was soon raised." Hostile feeling ran high; while the government men were running bullets at the house of Esq. Crosby, the Shays men were employed at the same hour, in the very same business, at the house of a neighbor. At this time the government men wore a fillet of white paper in their hats, as

their badge of distinction, while the Shays men were designated by a tuft of pine, or as Mr. Hyde says, "a sprig of evergreen." But the evergreen speedily withered. In a few weeks the insurrection was suppressed, and the wheels of government rolled on smoothly in their accustomed track.

How many men from this town actually joined the insurgents, cannot be stated with accuracy at this remote time, and it might not be of any use to record their names, if they were known. It is probable that the number was very small. The people of this place desired a redress of grievances, and this the government hastened to grant. No action taken by the town directly favored treason or rebellion; and it is quite certain that the opposition of individuals ended in talk. The name of one man may be given with certainty, and without impropriety, as an insurgent, since the fact was published at the time in the county paper. The Worcester Magazine, printed in the second week of February, 1787, contains the following passage: "A correspondent informs us that the member of Convention from the town of Winchendon, whose name is [Samuel] Litch, went off with his arms, week before last, and actually joined the insurgents under Adam Wheeler." The "week before last" would be toward the close of January, and thus Mr. Litch had time to reach the camp before the final march and defeat. Adam Wheeler was a bold, rough revolutionary captain, living in Hubbardston, who was very forward in the rebel movement.

### SECTION 3.—THE FLIGHT.

The drama was hasting to its ignoble exit. After various manœuvres, the insurgents were collected, in considerable force, in Pelham, about the 29th of January, and on Saturday, the 2d of February, seeing the government troops advancing, they began a retreat in the evening. The weather was mild, and the evening light, but at length snow began to fall. The insurgents could find no shelter, and so pressed forward all night, until the morning of the 3d, when they halted in Petersham to prepare their breakfast and take some rest. This was Sunday morning, the snow flying thick and fast, and being piled in drifts. The weather had become intensely cold. The Shays men supposed that their pursuers had halted, and felt increased security from pursuit on account of the raging of the storm. But this was the cause

of their sudden surprise and total rout. As the government soldiers could find no place of shelter and comfort, they kept moving all night, for the sake of keeping up a circulation of the blood. The result was that they came pouring into Petersham in the morning, and captured two hundred and fifty of the insurgents. According to the narrative of the late Col. Benjamin Adams, and Capt. Phineas Whitney, who were in the ranks of the government troops,—being then quite young—they caught the Shays men cooking their breakfast; but they took to their heels, leaving the kettles on the camp fires. The troops helped themselves to a warm meal, and the great mass of the rebels disappeared like a morning mist. A portion of them fled to Winchester, N. H., from whence they scattered, in smaller numbers; but a large part left the camp at Petersham for their homes. They hid their guns, and gave up all sign of opposition, for the declaration of a rebellion had been issued, and the government was pursuing with an overwhelming force.

One anecdote, related by Dr. Whiton, will here find its appropriate place. “After the dispersion of the insurgents at Petersham, four or five of them belonging to Middlesex county, passed through this town on their way home, in ill-humor at their want of success. Calling at Dr. Whiton’s, where Mr. Winn has resided for many years, and finding the Dr. a strong government man, one of them used high words, and threatened to run him through with his bayonet. The Dr. raised a heavy, long-handled iron shovel to defend himself; his wife, affrighted, seized from the cradle, her sleeping infant, for protection; but the passionate man was checked by one of his more prudent associates, who told him it would never do to threaten a man’s life in his own house, and induced his companions immediately to depart.” That infant thus snatched from the cradle, became the Rev. Dr. Whiton. Thus ended a wild and utterly unjustifiable attempt to work a change in the laws, if not in the form of government, of the State. In a few years the misguided insurgents and their friends were glad of their failure, and were zealous supporters of the constituted authority. Party bitterness, in this place, gave way to old neighborly kindness, and the parties lived in peace together as if they had never been at variance.

Mr. Litch, being obnoxious to the penalty of the law, left the State, and never returned to reside. Others kept out of public view for a sea-

son. One or more took refuge on the borders of the Monomonauk, where they had a boat, and a hut. The boat was for flight as well as for fishing. But the government was lenient, and the men soon returned to their homes, where they were unmolested by the officers of the law, while they were respected by their neighbors. An old ballad has been quoted already ;—another will furnish a fitting close to this narrative.

“Says sober Will, ‘well *Shays* has fled,  
And peace returns to bless our days.’  
‘Indeed!’ cries Ned, ‘I always said,  
He’d prove at last a *fall back Shays* ;\*  
And those turned over and undone,  
Call him a worthless *Shays to run*.’”

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\*The *chaise*, then in use, was sometimes spelled *shay*, like the insurgent leader’s name.



## CHAPTER VIII.—STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

### SECTION 1.—REPRESENTATION.

“A firm *union* will be of the utmost moment to the peace and liberty of the *States* as a barrier against domestic faction and insurrection.”

THE FEDERALIST.

In this chapter the connection of Winchendon with the political action of the times, will be briefly traced. In the Revolution, the people were unanimous, so far as is now known, in supporting the Declaration of Independence, and they did not falter, nor withhold their support, till peace and independence were secured. Shays' Rebellion divided the town into two hostile bands, a majority of the people being on the side of the insurgents, though but a very few of them engaged in any hostile acts, while much of the intelligence, property and moral worth of the place steadfastly adhered to the government. In regard to other questions there was difference of opinion, and the people ranged themselves with the great parties of the country, though without the violence and rancor which characterized the times of Shays.

Winchendon was rather backward in claiming her place in the State House. For several years after the organization of the town, no delegate was sent to the House of Representatives. In May, 1770, the town declined to send a representative. Similar action was taken in several of the next succeeding years. Robert Bradish, a plain, rough, but sensible man, was sent in 1776, and 1777, to the General Court. At the meeting, May 27, for choosing their representative, the town chose a Committee of seven persons to draft instructions for his guidance. As a peculiar interest attaches to every name engaged in the heroic work of those times, they will be given in full. The same rule will hold in the future. The committee were Ebenezer Sherwin, Thornton Barrett, Moses Hale, Daniel Goodridge, Richard Pearson, Abel Wilder and Benjamin Brown. The Report of the committee which was approved by the town, was in these words.

“To Mr. Robert Bradish,

*Sir:* You being legally appointed to represent the town of Winchendon in the Great and General Court the ensuing year, the town think proper to give you the following instructions, viz: That you use your influence to the utmost, to obtain a repeal of an Act, passed by the General Court in the close of their session in the year 1776, entitled an Act for a more equal representation. And upon the repeal of said Act, to issue writs for the choice of a new House, and then dissolve. And in case the said Act should not be repealed, not to proceed to any business, but return home.”

## SECTION 2.—STATE CONSTITUTION.

The first vote of the town, May 22, 1778, on the subject of a State Constitution, has already been mentioned. The state of the case was this. The General Court of 1777–8, in accordance with a recommendation of the General Court of the previous year, met together as a Convention, and adopted a form of Constitution “for the State of Massachusetts Bay,” which was submitted to the people. This town voted in its favor, 25 to 6, but it was rejected by the State. At this same meeting the town declined to send a representative to the legislature. The General Court followed up the movement for a new Constitution, by passing a Resolve on the 20th of February, 1779, calling upon the qualified voters to give in their votes on the questions—Whether they chose to have a new Constitution or Form of Government made, and, Whether they will empower their representatives to vote for calling a State Convention for that purpose. The people, by a large majority, voted in favor of both these propositions, and then the General Court, on the 17th of June, 1779, passed a Resolve, calling on the people to choose delegates to a Constitutional Convention, to be held in Cambridge on the 1st of the ensuing September. The people of this town, on the 20th of May, 1779, voted in favor of having a new Constitution, 18 to 7, and at the same time declined to send a representative in the General Court. In accordance with the above Resolve, a town meeting was held on the 8th of July, and Abel Wilder, Esq., was chosen delegate to the Convention at Cambridge. It may be stated here, that at a subsequent meeting, in July, 1780, the town “voted and granted 85 dollars per day for 34 days service at the Convention on the Constitution, the whole, £367,” or \$2890.

The Convention met on the first of September, and was presided over by JAMES BOWDOIN. After organization, a committee of thirty

was chosen, to whom the work of drawing up a "Declaration of Rights and the Form of a Constitution," was assigned. The Convention then had "a general and free conversation" upon the subject of a "Declaration and Rights," &c., in the presence of their committee, after which the body adjourned to the 28th of October. The committee of thirty appointed JOHN ADAMS to draught a "Declaration of Rights," and a sub-committee of three, viz: JAMES BOWDOIN, SAMUEL ADAMS and JOHN ADAMS, to prepare a "Form of Government." This committee assigned this task to JOHN ADAMS, who was thus the author of the whole work, which was, finally, after being somewhat amended, adopted by the Convention. What part the delegate of this town took in the proceedings, does not appear, as the debates were not published. His name is not found in the Journal as a member of any committee, but doubtless a man of his sense and weight of character, had influence in private discussion. After several adjournments the Convention completed their work, and submitted it to the scrutiny of the people.

It should be noted that the warning of the meeting to choose delegates to the Convention, was addressed "to all the freeholders and other inhabitants, being free and twenty-one years of age," thus putting the great work of forming a new frame of government into the hands of all the people, without regard to property or rank. The same formula was used in calling the town meeting to vote on the Constitution, held on the 15th of May, 1780. It was in these words: "All male persons, inhabitants of Winchendon, being free and twenty-one years of age," &c., were warned to meet and "hear the Declaration of Rights and Constitution or Form of Government for the State of the Massachusetts Bay." After reading the above instrument of government, the meeting adjourned to the 24th of May, that the people might form their deliberate conclusion. The meeting met and again adjourned to the 29th, when the vote was taken, as follows:

"For the Constitution with the Amendments, 21 yeas.

For the Frame of Government as it stands, yeas, 9; nays, 2."

The people of the State approved of the new Constitution, and under it the first General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts met at the State House in Boston, on Wednesday, October 25, 1780. Abel Wilder represented the town in the House, or the county in the Senate, from this time to his decease in 1792. On May 20th, 1782, Samuel Crosby, Esq., Dea. Moses Hale and Mr. Alexander Brown,

were chosen a committee to draw some instructions for "ye representative, Abel Wilder, Esq." These instructions are not on record, and the design of them is not known. On the 5th of April, 1784, Mr. Wilder received 25 votes for Senator and Counsellor. This vote brought his name before a larger constituency, which a year or two later adopted him.

In 1786, January 6, it was voted "to take taxes in shingles," in the case of several persons. In March, the town voted a hundred pounds to pay the town debt, and in keeping with its honorable course towards the new town of Gardner, the proportion assessed to that town was deducted.

### SECTION 3.—NATIONAL CONSTITUTION.

In 1788, March 10, Dea. Moses Hale was chosen delegate to the State Convention to consider the proposed Constitution for the United States. There was a powerful opposition to the adoption of the Constitution, which would perhaps have been defeated, in the Convention, if the great patriot, Samuel Adams, and his compeer, John Hancock, had not been induced to give it their support. A majority of the delegates from Worcester county, including the delegate from this town, on the final vote, were found in the negative.

Those persons, as a general rule, who had favored the Shays' movement, were opposed to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. There was a prevalent fear that the central government would become too strong; and they could not foresee that a great, wicked, and bloody rebellion would in the next century, grow in part, out of a jealousy for State rights. But besides these, there were others who were reluctant to enter into a union with slave-holders, and become bound to endure the slave trade until 1808, and take on themselves the obligation to restore fugitives from servitude. Their fears have been more than realized in our recent history. If the men of 1788 could have clearly foreseen the evils that a tolerated system of oppression has brought upon this generation, it is hardly conceivable that they would have entered the Union except on condition of the total abolition of slavery in all the States.

The first meeting to choose officers under the Constitution of the United States, was held on the 18th of December, 1788, when the town cast its vote in favor of Washington and Adams for President and Vice President.

Samuel Adams received every vote for Governor, on the 6th of April, 1795.

At the election, in 1792 and 1796, the Presidential candidates supported by the federal party received a large majority of the votes cast by the freemen of Winchendon.

The warrant for a town meeting in the last year of the last century, was addressed to "the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town qualified by law to vote in town meetings, viz: "such as pay to our single tax besides the poll or polls, a sum equal to two-thirds of a single poll tax." The warrant for a meeting to choose a representative was "to the male inhabitants of the town, being twenty-one years of age, and resident in the town for the space of one year next preceding, having a freehold estate of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate to the value of fifty pounds."

The voters of this town gave to Washington their most cordial and zealous support during both of his presidential terms. When troops were called for to suppress the "Whiskey rebellion" in Pennsylvania, they were ready to take the field. When he died, they sincerely mourned, in common with the great mass of his countrymen. Mr. Adams, though following in the footsteps of his predecessor, met with a strenuous, and even fierce opposition, especially in the South; but his own State was united in his support. The people of Winchendon concurred with the State in casting their votes for him, in the autumn of 1796, and also in 1800, when he was defeated. Their resentment against the insults of the French government was ardent, and they were ready to take up arms in defence of the honor of the nation. The well-known song, "Adams and liberty," was a favorite with our patriotic and high-spirited ancestry of that period. But Mr. Jefferson, the leader of the Virginia school of politics, came into power. The "Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions" superseded the principles of Washington, Adams and Marshall, and the country entered on a career which naturally culminated in the wicked rebellion of 1861.

In closing these notices of the political affinities of the town, it is but fair to state, that though the Rev. Mr. Brown, then supported by the town in its capacity as a parish, was a firm friend of the Government, in the time of the Shays excitement, he was not, on that account, called in question, the people, even in the time of the most violent agitation, conceding to their minister his right to untrammelled action as a citizen.

## CHAPTER IX.—EDUCATION PREVIOUS TO 1800.

“Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,  
With blossom'd furze, unprofitably gay,  
There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,  
The village master, taught his little school.”

GOLDSMITH.

In this chapter, a full, though concise history will be given of the progress of education, including schools, school-houses, districts, teachers, committees, &c., down to the opening of the present century. The first entry in the Records bearing on this subject, is dated May 5, 1765, when eight dollars were appropriated for schooling. This was the first year after the organization of the town. The school was at the Centre. The sum granted, March 3, 1766, was \$20. In 1767, \$13. The next year, the appropriation was six pounds, or twenty dollars; and it was voted as follows: “the extreme parts of the town to have a school by themselves, they providing a place and keeper.” This year one bill brought against the town was for “a horse to bring the school dame up and carry her down again,” five shillings. She belonged, of course, to one of the lower towns. On the 6th of March, 1769, forty shillings were devoted to schooling, and the Selectmen were authorised to lease eighty acres of school land, and use the proceeds in supporting a school. The school land was rented for schooling in 1772, and in the next year, twelve pounds, besides the rent of the school land. The following bill helps to fill out the picture of those primitive times.

“The town of Winchendon Dr., to me for Boarding the school Dame, Mrs. Down, four weeks, at three shillings per week, £0, 12, 0, 0.”

On the 7th of March, 1774, £7, 6s. was devoted to schooling, “partly rents, and partly money not used last year.” At the same time, “voted, to choose a committee to divide the town into districts

for schooling. Chose Daniel Goodridge, Moses Hale, William Whitney, John Boynton and Seth Oaks."

#### SECTION 1.—THE FIRST DISTRICTS.

The committee made a report dated March 17, 1774, which was accepted by the town. This action did not constitute legal districts, in the modern acceptance of the term, but merely divided the town into sections for school purposes, the town still having full care of the schools. It will be interesting to know where the population was located at the opening of the Revolution. The report here follows.

"We the subscribers, being chosen by the town of Winchendon, legally assembled on the seventh day of March—1774,—a committee to appoint places for school houses to be set up in order for schools to be kept in said town, have agreed upon the following places which appear to us to [be] most convenient for said purposes.

For the southwest part of the town we have agreed to have a school house upon the road between Potato brook and Joseph Wilder's [now Luke Wilder's] house, if the town shall think proper. [Never built.]

For the southeast part of the town we think proper to have a school house on the new county road about half a mile south of Wm. Whitney's, as near the south side of the first brook south of said Whitney's as the land will allow of. [This section was afterwards set off to Gardner.]

For the east part of the town, we think the most convenient place for a school house is in the great road by Mr. Dudley Perley's. [That is, on the old road from the Centre to Ashburnham.]

For the north part of the town, it appears to us that the most convenient place for a school house to be set up is on the county road near where the road turns out that leads by Mr. John Boynton's to Rindge. [John Boynton lived on the place at the north part of the town, now owned by Capt. E. Murdock, Jr.]

For the west part of the town, we think best to have the school house erected on the county road that leads to Royalston, near the mouth of fly road, so called. [Just beyond what has since been known as the Caswell place, west of Miller's river and where the road comes in from Bullardville.]

Winchendon, March 17, 1774."

The Centre already had a school. It was several years before all the sections of the town were supplied with school houses. Schools were kept in private houses, cooper's shops, and wherever room could

be found. It will be seen that no provision was made for children in the Village, Waterville or Spring Village. The simple fact was that there were scarcely any inhabitants near the river, between the Monomonauk and New Boston ; where we now find not far from four-fifths of our scholars. The next year the sum granted was the rent of the school lands, besides £5 given by the county ; in 1776, £20 were devoted to schooling. A new step was taken in 1777. The appropriation was enlarged to £30, and a committee was appointed " to see after schooling," viz : Dea. Moses Hale, David Goodridge, Daniel Goodridge, Peter Joslin, Ebe'r. Howe. This was the first school committee, as far as can be ascertained. Their duties were mainly those afterwards assigned to the prudential committees chosen by the districts. The examination of teachers and schools generally was done by the clergy, as officers of the town. The school committee of 1778, were Ebenezer Howe, Lt. Joseph Boynton, Lt. Amos Merriam, Dea. Hale, John Day, each one belonging to a separate district. This year £100 were voted for schooling ; of which £7, 6s were to be derived from rent of land. Money had already begun to depreciate. On the 9th of September, the question came up again in regard to dividing the town into districts, but nothing was done. In 1779, £400 were granted to be employed in schooling. This was paper money. It was voted, " that the school money for this year be equally divided into six parts. The following committee was chosen, viz : Capt. John Boynton, Capt. Seth Oaks, Dea. Moses Hale, William Whitney, Abel Wilder and James McElwain, to agree on six places to have a school kept in this town where it will best accommodate the inhabitants." Then chose Capt. Joseph Bacon, Dea. Moses Hale, Abel Wilder, Capt. John Boynton, Phillips Sweetzer and James McElwain, " to see that the school money is properly laid out." In other words, they were the prudential committee of the town. This action was taken at the March meeting. The committee immediately reported in relation to districts, as follows, thus showing that no school houses had yet been erected.

" The committee on locating school houses reported that " it appears to us that it is most convenient to have the school houses erected in the following places, namely, one on the Meeting House Common ; one about 20 rods south of the brook which runs across the road between Mr. Phillips Sweetzer and Mr. Jeremiah Stuart, [not far from the trotting park, now No. 10,



or Tallow hill school,] one at the corner of the road between Bill Hancock's and David Stoddard's, [now No. 7, and part of No. 8,] one just on the causey by Jonathan Stimpson's, [now No. 5, or Estey school house ;] one just over the brook on the road from David Goodridge to Lieut. Joseph Boynton, [just northeast of the house of Mr. Jonas Nutting, towards Mr. James Murdock's ;] the other on the county road towards Westminster, on the east district lot, No. 2." [Now in Gardner.]

The next vote indicates the cause of still farther delay in building the houses, viz: derangement of the currency. It was in these words: "Voted, that the town will not take the present currency for the rents on those school and ministerial lands wherein the lease mentions lawful money of Great Britain."

At the annual meeting, March 9, 1780, it was voted "that a school-master be hired to keep school nine months in a year." Also, that "the nine months' schooling be equally divided into six parts, to be kept in the several places agreed upon by the town." The schools were probably kept in private houses. At a meeting, October 13, the largest nominal appropriation for schools was made that is upon record, viz: £2300, worth perhaps \$100. At the March meeting in 1781, the school money "was *equally* divided between the several schools." The following provision was made: "Six months of writing school in each quarter, and the remainder of the money to be laid out in a woman's school, (if it appears to be the desire of the quarter,) in such places as will best accommodate the whole of said squadron, and when no woman's school is desired, the whole to be laid out in a man's school." It was then voted to build school houses in "the several places agreed upon by the town."

But voting is not building. The subject came up again at the adjourned meeting, March 22, when it was "Voted to have a school house built in the centre of the town 20 feet square." The "others to be 18 feet square." Then the vote to build school houses was reconsidered. It was next voted to give "liberty to each squadron or school district, or any particular persons, to build school houses on the spots agreed upon by the town, and that those persons who build said houses, shall hold them as their own property until such time as the town shall see fit to purchase them of the proprietors for the town's use." After this comes the rather inconsistent vote "to build six school

houses this present year." A committee was also appointed to see to the building of school houses, viz: Samuel Prentice, James McElwain, Phillips Sweetzer, Edward Withington, Francis Bridge, Joseph Bacon. These men represented districts Nos. 1, 7, 10, 3, 5, as they have been arranged for many years past. Bacon was in the Gardner section. It was then voted "that those squadrons who get the school houses done the cheapest, have so much money laid out in schooling more than their quota of school money, as to make them equal to the highest priced houses." Now it would seem as if the children would soon be accommodated with school houses, but "there's many a slip," &c. At the meeting on the 3d of April, it was "voted to postpone the building of school houses until next year." The burdens of the war pressed too heavily upon them to admit their doing anything which was not absolutely necessary. The appropriation for schooling was £40.

In 1782, March 4, the town granted £36, or £6 to each squadron, for schooling. The term "squadron," seems to have come into use in the Revolution; that is, in its application to districts or sections of the town. On the 19th of March, the old vote was renewed to "build the school houses the present year," but on the following 11th of April, this vote was reconsidered. On the 28th of May, it was "voted that the committee chosen last March to provide schooling the present year, be a committee to divide the pay of the town into six equal parts, both as to polls and estates, for the purpose of building school houses. No action was taken the next year, and nothing in the year following which led to results. The school money was £40. In 1785, March 14, the town voted to have a "Grammar school for the year ensuing," and granted £50 for schooling. The same sum was voted next year, including the rent of the school land. At the same time, March 7, 1786, the town "chose a committee of nine to take up and consider whether the town will build school houses in the several parts of the town as now divided," viz: Benjamin Kidder, Ahimaaz Sherwin, Paul Raymond, Samuel Crosby, Esq., Dea. Moses Hale, Samuel Prentice, Phillips Sweetzer, Daniel Hubbard and Joseph Boynton.

#### SECTION 2.—THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSES.

This committee reported on the 3d of April, 1786, "that there be no alteration in the school squadrons, nor in the several places heretofore agreed upon for school houses. Also, we beg leave to report as

our opinion, that it will be best for the town to raise a sum of money to be appropriated to the building school houses, in the places already agreed on, or in such other place or places as the squadrons more intimately concerned agree upon. Also that the money granted, shall be divided into five equal parts, and a committee man or men be chosen in each squadron to have the oversight of the work, who shall give each one as equal a chance as may be in finding materials and doing the work." It was then voted "to build six school houses in the town of Winchendon," and "to set the school houses in the several places before appointed, except the south part." Three-hundred dollars were granted for the purpose, and a committee of twelve "to see to the building of the school houses." These are their names: Abel Wilder, Benjamin Brown, Edward Withington, Joseph Boynton, Phillips Sweetzer, David Poor, Daniel Hubbard, Bill Hancock, William Whitney, Paul Raymond, Dea. Moses Hale and Isaac Prouhty. The houses were erected in accordance with these votes, and were located as follows: one in the Centre, near the house of John Woodbury, and was of brick; another in the eastern district, near the present site, perhaps on the same spot; another in what was known as the old sixth district, near the Bigelow place; another in the southern section, near the Poor mill, just west of the stream. This was burned. Then the house was located on the east side of the stream, about a rod east of the John Poor house, now occupied by Mr. Carter; another in the northwest, on the road between Levi Parks' and the Royalston road, near the trotting park; and the sixth in the northern part of the town, near Daniel Boynton's house, between his house and John Boynton's.

The appropriation for 1789 was about \$200, or £60; for 1790, £72. At the March meeting, 1791, it was voted that "each district shall school out their proportion of money within a year after the grant is made, or forfeit it." The sum granted for schools, for several years to come was \$240 to \$450, increasing towards the close of the century. At a meeting November 7, 1791, £150 were granted for building and repairing school houses in the town. Chose Moses Hale, John Burr and James McElwain, a committee for the purpose. At a meeting held a fortnight later, this vote was reconsidered, and £50 granted. On the 1st of August, 1792, it was voted to move the school house to the east line of the Common.

## SECTION 3.—SECOND ARRANGEMENT OF DISTRICTS.

The increase of population made it important, in a few years, to increase the number of school houses. Some of the children were under the necessity of going long distances to reach their school. New wants must be met by new arrangements. Accordingly, at a meeting held May 6, 1793, the town “chose a committee of seven persons to make a new arrangement of school districts in the town. Chose one in each district, and the seventh by ballot. Dea. Samuel Prentice represented No. 10 in recent times, that is, the northwest part of the town; Benjamin Wilder, No. 1; David Goodridge, No. 3, or the north district; Peter Robinson, No. 6 formerly, near the Bigelow place; Dea. Moses Hale, the east district in recent times, No. 5; and David Hubbard, No. 7. William Whitney was chosen by ballot, and acted as chairman. At a meeting June 3, the following report was offered and accepted:

“That there be one school house on the Royalston road near the line between the Rev. Joseph Brown’s land and Mr. Abner Curtice; [never built,] 2, that there be one do. on Fitzwilliam road, near the north line of Capt. Paul Boynton’s land, on the east side of said road, [between the Village and Henry Keith’s; 3, one do. on the Rindge road near the line between Lt. Joseph Boynton and Mr. James Payson; 4, one do. on the road leading to Ashburnham, on the easterly side of the long causey near Mr. Jere’h Lord’s land, where it now stands; 5, one do. on the county road leading through Gardner, near where the road comes from Mr. David Smith’s into said road, where the school house now stands; 6, one do. on the Templeton road near Mr. Eliphalet Goodridge’s, where the school house in No. 7, now stands; [afterwards moved to its present location] 7, one do. near Mr. Peter Russell’s, where the frame now stands; [near Miss Sylvia Howard’s] 8, one do. on the road leading from Mr. Jere’h Stuart’s to Mr. Francis Goodhue, where the school house now stands [near the trotting park.]”

After hearing the report, it was voted “to build the school houses in the several districts agreed upon.” A committee of eight was chosen to draw a plan of the houses, and to propose ways and means to build them: viz, Benjamin Hall, Esq., Capt. Paul Boynton, Lt. Joseph Boynton, Dea. Moses Hale, David Smith, Paul Raymond, Jr., Ebenezer Sherwin and Jeremiah Stuart.

This committee reported on the third of September that “each district build their own school houses. Granted £243 including £50

lately granted to build and repair school houses, said sum to be divided to each district, according to their pay. This looked like work, and accordingly a building committee was chosen, viz: Phinehas Whitney, No. 1; Lieut. Joseph Boynton, north district; Ezra Hyde, the house on the Fitzwilliam road; Jeremiah Stuart, for the northwest; Jesse Ellis, for the southwest; Daniel Hubbard, No. 7, or the south; Peter Robinson for the old 6th, near the Bigelow place; and Moses Hale for the eastern district. It was then voted that "the middle or centre district have liberty to set their school house where they think best." It was placed near the present house of Mr. John Woodbury. A committee was chosen to view the situation of the southwest district, and determine upon the spot on which said house ought to stand. Thomas Graton, or Greateon, Jeremiah Stuart and Benjamin Hall were the committee, and they reported subsequently in favor of the old site, though preferring another if the roads were convenient for it. On the 6th of January, 1794, the Assessors were directed to commit the school house tax to the collector; and he was to receive school house committee orders in discharge of said tax. The assessors and school house committee were directed to meet and make a division of the money granted to build school houses according to the school districts and their pay, and the non-residents' pay to be divided by the assessors and committee according to their best discretion. On the 5th of May, it was voted "that the school houses should be finished on or before the first day of January next." May 28, the north district was allowed to "apply the money granted to it for schooling last year to building their school house." The southwest district was allowed, by vote passed March 7, 1797, "to place its school house where they please exclusive of cost to the town." It was probably placed near the south side of the Denison pond, near the house of Miss Sylvia Howard.

#### SECTION 4.—STATE OF EDUCATION.

The history of education in the town will be arrested at this point, for the purpose of bringing forward other parts of the work. This, however, is the natural period for a division of the narrative, since the opening of the present century was really the beginning of a new era in the cause of popular education. Before turning to a new subject, it may be well to take a passage from the manuscript of Dr. Whiton, since his recollections embraced a portion of the period under review. He

says: "I wish I had been able to ascertain when the first school house was built; it was probably prior to 1770, it being, at my earliest recollections, a rough, ricketty affair, of diminutive size, standing a little west of Dea. Cutter's present dwelling." This was the northwest corner of the Common. The Records give no information in regard to the building of this first school-house. It was probably erected before the Revolution, though not long previous to that event. School-houses in those days were generally "rough," and they soon became "ricketty," taking on rapidly the marks of age. They were without paint, and so felt all the changes of the seasons, and yielded to the gnawings of the tooth of time. Dr. W. continues: "In the earliest schools, the only books to be found were the old New England Primer, small in size but rich in value; Dilworth's Spelling Book and the Psalter, including Psalms and Proverbs, or the Testament. I do not think the schools in Winchendon *ever* exhibited the primitive simplicity of some places where the scholars learned to write on white birch bark for lack of paper, and were taught in rotation a week each, by all the men who could read; some of whom would cut but a sorry figure as instructors. Schools here were a grade above this. About 1790 a decided advancement was made in school books. Perry's Spelling Book superseded Dilworth's; Pike's Arithmetic was introduced, afterwards superseded by Adams'; Webster's Third Part came into use as a reading book, followed not long after by the American Preceptor. The study of English Grammar began to be thought of, Alexander's Grammar finding its way into the schools. Not the least attention was given to Geography till 1795, when a small abridgement of Morse's Geography began to be called for. These books held possession of the schools for many years, till better and more modern compilations expelled them. It was scarce known that such sciences as Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Botany, Rhetoric, Physiology or Algebra were in existence; of their introduction into Primary schools, no one at that day dreamed. To read, spell and write decently, and acquire enough of Arithmetic for the transaction of ordinary business, was all the young aspired to. The medical pupils of Dr. Israel Whiton, of whom there was a considerable number, aided to furnish a supply of teachers of the winter schools. The schools were however, as good as the means and circumstances of the town, in those days, allowed; and if they were not what could be wished, still they effected a large amount of good."

CHAPTER X.—HIGHWAYS AND  
BY-WAYS.

“Ods whips and spurs! A road fit for a king  
Winds through these woods:—that is, a king of knaves.  
The farmer’s white-oak cart jolts over rocks,  
Logs, stumps; the springless wagon sinks in mud  
While on the way to mill. The traveler,  
Bewildered by the crooks, and thick-leaved shade,  
Lists to the forest sounds, and dreads the sight  
Of the fierce wild beast, or well-armed foot-pad,—  
Perchance of stealthy Indian on his tramp.  
It seems the very hatching place of theft  
And murder.—A change comes o’er the scenery.  
See the long row of horses and their freight,—  
Men, mothers, children, on their way to church.  
The squirrel chirrup on the trees; the tuneful birds  
Fill all the air with song; a solemn hymn  
Breaks forth from human lips, and all the aisles  
Are vocal with their melody.”

OLD SCOUT.

Roads while they mark the condition and progress of civilization, furnish great facilities for general improvement. The history of a town, no more than of a nation, cannot be complete, without some account of its means of inter-communication. Macaulay, who more than any other historian, exhibits every phase of a people’s life, enters into exceedingly interesting details concerning the roads of England. We are surprised to learn that the great lines of travel were in a wretched condition far along into the last century, while the cross roads were almost impassable. In our own country good roads were very uncommon till several years after the Revolution. Indeed, the art of road making was not understood, among us, till very recently. At first the people followed Indian trails; then they marked bridle-paths by cutting or blazing trees; next they cut cart roads, removing the largest stones and stumps, and roots, so that oxen, and perhaps steady horses, could

move a load without shaking vehicle and contents to pieces. By degrees came highways on which prudent drivers could venture to travel, by using proper vigilance. The next step in progress was the turnpike, built by a corporation, and deriving its support from travelers who paid their fare at gates swung across the road at suitable intervals—say, six or eight miles apart. These were a great advance, in comparison with the old roads, but in time the people became educated up to the point where they were willing to tax themselves to pay for free roads that should be better than the turnpikes. Such has been the course of things in the eastern States. We read of western towns, where one can take his start in an avenue, which soon changes into a street, that diminishes to a road, then dwindles into a cart-path, and finally vanishes in a squirrel track up a tree. With us avenues come last, but well-built roads are demanded by an advancing public sentiment. A county Commissioner remarked a few years since, that a team could draw twice as much from any part of the county to the Court House in the same time, as the same team could have drawn twenty-five years before; so great had been the improvement in the roads.

#### SECTION 1.—THE FIRST ROADS.

The first Proprietors of Ipswich Canada found their way to these wilds, by trails and bridle-paths, either through Westminster and what is now Gardner, or through Dorchester Canada, now Ashburnham. Lunenburg and Leominster were settled sometime before the towns at the west of them, and travelers found their way hither by either route. It is probable however, that the northern road was most frequented. Ashburnham was settled about the time our fathers came here, and thus a way was opened to our eastern border. Before this time, the towns in the valley of the Connecticut had become quite populous, and it was necessary to have lines of travel from the valley of the Nashua to the great river. This explains the vote of the Proprietors in a meeting held on the 27th of October, 1737, which was in these words: "That there be a road cut from Earlington as near as may be to the Meeting-House Lott, at the charge of the Proprietors." For a long time, it was impossible to find the location of Earlington. Mr. Hyde, who was aged enough to remember several years into the last century, says in a note on the 79th page of his History, that he "has not yet discov-



ered what place is meant by Earlington." The supposition was that it was some parish or precinct in one of the lower towns, as Lunenburg, Leominster or Lancaster, through which the travel would naturally take its course in coming to this region. On inquiring at the State House for Earlington, the antiquarians in the Secretary's office confessed themselves ignorant of that locality. However, in the Index of Plans, Grants, &c., it was found that a part of Northfield had been granted to Major Joseph Willard, — being a large strip on the north and east sides of the town—with the name of Earlington. This discovery made the design of the Proprietors evident. It was to bring the travel between the settlements east and west through this place. A far-sighted project, never yet fully realized. In after times a canal was surveyed from the Hudson to Boston, through Winchendon Village, and still later a railroad, but neither have been transformed from projects to facts. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when one of the great lines of railway travel from the seaboard to the western part of the State, and so on to the Great West, will pass through our principal Village. But to return from our digression: The next meeting of the Proprietors was on the 3d of November, when it was voted "that six pounds be paid and allowed out of the treasury to such proprietor as shall cut an Horse-way from Earlington road to the Meeting House Lott."

Such was the beginning of the road system of this town, the design of which was to open ways through the place, rather than to accommodate families, since there were none on the ground. A road was the necessary means of bringing them here. On the 13th of February,\* 1737-8, it was voted "that there be a Cart Way cut from Dorchester Canada Meeting House Lott—which was on the top of the old meeting-house hill,—on the nearest and most convenient way that can be found from Dorchester Canada road to the centre of the Lotts as laid out in the Township of the said Ipswich Canada, and make such bridges and causeys as are absolutely necessary for making the way passable." This road was "cut," and in the course of time became the traveled way between Winchendon hill and Ashburnham hill, as it can be traced on the map. It was continued from the centre of the town to Royalston line on its way to "Earlington." \* The next year, February 8,—

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\* The year in old times began with the month of March.

as for convenience sake we shall fix the dates as if the year began in January—it was voted “that Col. Berry be empowered and directed to agree with some proper person to clear a road that shall be marked out by the Proprietors of Paquaige, from the line of the Township to the Town Road.” Paquaige or Bayquaige was Athol, and the road or path thither was probably by the lands of Enoch Wyman and John Raymond, and so on across the plain, and over the river by the Benjamin Alger place, thence by the Baptist meeting-house towards Athol. In 1741, March 18, a committee was empowered to “clear the old way into the Township of the trees that are fallen into it.” The next year, May 19, Col. Thomas Berry, Capt. Edward Eveleth, and Lieut. William Brown were chosen a committee to lay out and clear a road from the north part of the Township, by the place where the saw-mill is to be erected, to the South Bound.” The saw-mill was at the mouth of Poor’s or Carter’s pond, so that the road was to extend from the north part of the town, by the centre, and over Raymond hill towards Templeton, *via* Jonesville. At the same time Col. Berry was directed to take some “proper method as he shall think best to oblige the Proprietors of Lunenburg and Dorchester Canada to make suitable and convenient ways” to this place.

Passing an interval of ten years, we find that on the 29th of January, 1753, Thomas Brown was appointed “to have the oversight of mending the hi-way.” May 6, a committee was directed “to look out the most suitable place to erect a bridge over the river;” and on the 2d of September following, it was voted “that a foot or horse bridge be built across the river where the county road runs.” This bridge was probably over Miller’s river, on the road to Royalston, about a mile northwest of Waterville. On the 3d of July a committee was chosen “to petition the next Sessions of the Peace in the county of Worcester, in order to establish a hi-way from Lunenburgh through Dorchester Canada and Narragansett No. 2, to Ipswich Canada, and so far as Ipswich Canada extends; and if they fail there, to apply to the General Court for the end aforesaid.” On the 25th of October a party “came to clear the county road.” A committee was appointed, March 10, 1756, “to lay out a road to the saw-mill,” from which it must be concluded that the former order had not been carried into effect. October 31, 1759, a committee was chosen to build a bridge over the road to Roy-

alshire, beyond Waterville. So the former vote had remained a dead letter.

In 1762, June 30, a road was accepted "from the northwest corner of the burying yard towards the north; probably extending to the Stearns place, where Capt. Levi Stearns now resides. Also a road from John Darling's—now Jason Keith's—to Mr. Parson's mill, where Goodspeed & Wyman's establishment now stands. Another from Mr. Boynton's—in Royalston leg—to the same mill; and still another from the mill to the county road; that is, to the Centre. This formerly ran over the highest part of the hill. In 1763 a road was provided for "from the mill road to Temple Town." This was probably a new order in relation to an old measure. In 1764, a road was laid out from William Moffatt's to John Darling's. This road went from Darling's, now Jason Keith's, to Royalston line, through what is now Bullardville and over Tallow hill, by the house of Moffatt. There was a road also sanctioned, leading from the meeting-house to Darling's; but this was merely a union of roads already provided for, and probably built. Another road terminating at Benoni Boynton's; another from Nathaniel Burnam's by Silas Whitney's; another from Aaron Hodgkins' to the county road near Thomas Mansfield's, who lived near the south end of the burying ground; and another from Nathaniel Bixby's to the Meeting-house. This was the year of the town's organization, and the reader, by tracing the above roads, can ascertain the situation of the different families.

In 1766, a road was accepted from William Moffatt's, by David Poor's to the Royalston line. If ever made, it was discontinued long since, as none living remember such a road. The next year—1767, a road was laid out from the meeting house to Westminster, going east to the place now occupied by Mr. Winn, and then south by east to Westminster. This was the "old road" to Gardner, by William Whitney's. Several other roads were ordered, but it is difficult to trace them from the Records, and a subsequent arrangement makes the knowledge of them needless. The same may be said of several roads accepted in 1769, and 1770. Indeed, if all the roads which were accepted and then discontinued, in these early times, could be secured by any man, he would have an ample farm, provided that all the parts could be brought into one field. The method was this: a man opened

a farm in the midst of woods, and then cut his way out to the nearest neighbor. In time, another neighbor in another direction would suggest the need of a road; until finally a through road would accommodate several families, and the old by-roads would be needed no longer. In 1771, a committee was chosen to rebuild the long bridge over the river between the two Mr. Oaks', who lived on either side—a mile beyond Waterville.

There was but little done in the way of opening new, or repairing old roads during the period of the Revolution. In 1780, a man was allowed £9 per day for labor on the road. In 1782, committees were chosen to repair the road "on the north side of the town," and "to build a new bridge over Miller's river by Beeman's mill, a little above the old bridge." The committee to build were Abel Wilder, Benjamin Brown, John Boynton, Josiah Beeman and Paul Boynton.

#### SECTION 2.—WINCHENDON LOTTERY.

At the annual meeting March 3, 1783, the following committee, viz: Abel Wilder, Esq., Samuel Crosby, Esq., and Levi Nichols, were appointed "to petition the General Court for a lottery to build bridges." While the committee are getting this permission to raise money by a lottery, it will be convenient to follow up, in chronological order, the business of road and bridge making. On the 12th of March, eight roads were accepted. These were not of general importance, with perhaps one exception. Abner Curtice, whose house was not far east from the residence of Enoch Wyman, succeeded in getting a road accepted which was to start from a point west of the Nichols tavern, where Mr. Cromwell Fisher now lives, about half way to the Benjamin place, and proceed thence over the hill, to the house of Mr. Curtice; another road, in continuance of this, was granted, extending to Tyler Raymond's. The design probably was to open a road from the north part of the town to the south part, and on to Templeton, which should avoid the high elevation in the Centre, and several lesser hills on the existing road. But the influence of the Centre was too strong to allow of the success of this undertaking, and at a meeting about three weeks later, it was voted "to reconsider the vote accepting the road laid out from Abner Curtice's to the road between Goodhue and Nichols' tavern."

Action was taken at the same time to secure the building of the bridge, with the expectation that the lottery would provide the funds. No appropriation was made, but a committee to build the bridge was chosen, as follows: Dea. Hale, Samuel Prentice, David Poor, Amos Merriam and David Goodridge. But the building of this bridge was a great enterprise, and the town took uncommon measures to have it well done; therefore a committee of eleven persons was chosen "to consult with the above committee as to the plan and form of building the bridge, viz: Joseph Boynton, Abel Wilder, Esq., John Beemis, Levi Nichols—who had offered to pay the extra expense if the bridge could be moved a little east,\*—Timothy Kneeland, Samuel Crosby, Esq., Ebe'r Sherwin, Eliphalet Goodrich, Francis Goodhue, William Whitney and Philips Sweetzer, Jr." But this did not satisfy the town, and therefore they made choice of still another committee "to give instructions to the first committee about laying out the money," viz: Abel Wilder, Esq., Samuel Crosby, Esq., and Amos Heywood. This last committee, appointed to draft instructions for the committee chosen "to build the bridge, and repair the road leading to Charleston, N. H., through the town of Winchendon," reported:

"First, that the Committee be, and they are hereby empowered and directed to proceed directly to build a bridge over Miller's river, by Capt. Newton's† mills, beginning a little above a ledge of rocks on the northerly side of the river, a little east of the old bridge, thence across the river directly, meeting the road from Mr. Nichols', where it strikes the road from Mr. Ch. Heywood's to the mills; that the buttments of said bridge be built 18 feet wide with stone and earth; there be a pillar of stones erected in the middle under the bridge, leaving a water course not exceeding 25 feet wide betwixt each buttment; that the committee be empowered to make any necessary repairs on the road aforesaid. Provided, that those persons who labor, or find materials for the above work, will take tickets in the first class of the lottery granted for the above purpose, or wait till the lottery be drawn for their money."

\*The original bridge over Miller's river by Parsons' mill, was several rods below the dam of Goodspeed & Wyman. The first dam was at least half way from the present dam to the turn of the stream to the right. The first road ran over this dam; that is, was the top of the dam. This accounts for the fact that we have no record of a bridge preceding the bridge built by the lottery money.

†In other places called Parsons', Beeman's, Hall's, and Knight's mills; and by still other owners.

Previous to 1784, there had been no uniform rule prescribing the width of the roads. Some were narrow paths, and others were four rods wide. By a vote, on the 15th of March of this year, it was ordered that all roads should be three rods wide. About the same time, it was voted "to build a bridge over Miller's river for Mr. Crooks and others." This was by the Benjamin Alger place, on the road to the New Boston meeting-house. In the Records of this year, there is mention of a county road from Ashburnham to Fitzwilliam, passing through the site of this Village. It ran by the Hale, Tolman and Stearns farms, to the Parsons mill, and thence by the Keith place.

In 1785, January 13, it was voted "to begin the drawing the lottery in the meeting house." Dea. Hale and Benjamin Brown were chosen clerks to assist the manager in drawing. Law-makers and people in those days had not learned the pernicious effects of lottery gambling; therefore the General Court authorized it, and the people could find no place, not even the church, and no persons, not even the deacons, too good to be engaged in the business. Some money was raised, but, as Mr. Hyde well says: "no scheme of taxation could have been devised more injurious and extravagant. It was paying under a fascinating prospect of gain, a much larger sum than the citizens would have been obliged to contribute by regular rates. Nor was this all. Some will now recollect—this was in 1849—the time consumed in drawing the several classes of this lottery, the idleness and consequent dissipation it induced, to say nothing of its natural tendency to beget a love of gaming." It must have seemed poor sport to those who had given work or materials for tickets, to draw blanks. Dr. Whiton, who was born a year later, and who doubtless, heard in subsequent years, the comments of his seniors on this affair, says: "three classes were drawn in the lottery. Some money, though less than was hoped, was obtained, and the bridge was re-built two years afterwards. On the part of our Fathers, this lottery affair was a sad mistake; true, it helped to build the bridge, but at a far overbalancing cost of time and morals. It attracted idlers and speculators to visit the town, introduced various forms of dissipation, and affected injuriously the morals of the people for years afterwards."

#### SECTION 3.—NEW ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The project of a county road from Royalston, through the south

part of this town to Westminster, was started early, and followed up to final success. As it would be of little use to this town, and would tend to divert travel away from the Centre, efforts were made to prevent the opening of the road. The tax-payers did not relish the idea of paying for a road which would injuriously affect their interests. On the 14th of March, 1785, after appropriating £120 for highways, the town chose Abel Wilder and Samuel Crosby, Esqrs., a committee "to oppose a new county road from Royalston to Westminster." In the autumn, November 14, the town accepted the bridge by Newton's mills, and on the 24th, voted "to lay out the money arising from the third class of the lottery, at the bridge by Mr. Philips Sweetzer's." The building committee were Philips Sweetzer, Abner Curtice, and Jacob Hale. The bridge was to be built in the following manner :

"A pair of trussels on each side of the main stream, then westward 20 feet a butment with stones, then logs and gravel till it comes to a suitable place for a water course ; then two butments a suitable width for the same ; then logs and gravel till it comes near the west side of the interval ; then two other butments with stone and a pair of trussels between the same, for another water course, and suitable width for two lengths of string pieces."

This bridge was over Miller's river, near the Oaks place, a mile from Waterville, on the Royalston road. It seems that there were three water-courses, and many can now remember when the western water passage was closed up with gravel. The stream usually flowed in its natural channel, on the east side, but when the floods came, a portion of the water ran through the west passage. At a subsequent meeting, it was ordered that the "bridge should be all logs instead of part stone." When the middle passage was closed, is not recorded. The marks of it are still visible.

On the 7th of March, 1786, a road was accepted "from John Goodhue's house by Dr. Manning's, by land of Amos Merriam and Capt. Joseph Wilder, to the bridge, then across the river to land of Bartholomew Stearns, then by Charles Heywood's, then between land of Stearns and Heywood, to the road leading by the mill, from east to west." As this description is unintelligible to persons now living, it is proper to state that the road extended from some point in the Village, by the Parsons mill, across the river, and on by the houses of Mr. Sumner Wyman and Mrs. Connor.

Winchendon had now, in 1786, spanned its principal river at three places, viz: in the Village, thus opening travel to the north; at the Oaks or Ball place, leading to Royalston; and at the Crooks, or Alger place, leading to New Boston and on to Payquaige. Two of these, if not all three, were substantial works, and creditable to the enterprise of the people in that day of small means, just after the Revolution. The first bridges had, without doubt, been plain, rough structures; these were a great improvement, as the times demanded. Roads penetrated to the extremities of the town, though most of them were mere bridle, or at best, cart paths. The great roads from Ashburnham to Royalston, and from the north line to Templeton, as well as that from Winchendon to Fitzwilliam, all radiating from the Common, were probably passable for carriages and teams. Not much was done for several years following by way of making roads or bridges. The few improvements of this nature will be indicated according to the dates.

October 8, 1787, it was voted "that Asa Ellis and Thomas Wyman build a bridge over Priest's brook, and be allowed to take them out of their town rate." This bridge was west of the New Boston meeting house, and near the edge of Royalston. The next year, March 10, there was a vote to build a bridge over the river near Mr. Haven's. In 1789, £150, or \$500 was raised for highways. Considering the price of labor at the time, this was a liberal appropriation. On the 2d of March, the town voted "to build a bridge over Miller's river on the new county road from Royalston to the north part of Templeton, by Mr. Thomas Wyman's." The committee to build the bridge were David Hubbard, Eliphalet Goodridge, and Thornton Barrett. This bridge was a little west of Denison pond, where Mr. Patch has resided for many years. It appears therefore that the new road was opened in spite of opposition and remonstrance. At the same time a road was accepted, for Benjamin May, beginning at the State line, (Rindge,) and passing over the brook by said May's house, and extending south to the county road to Fitzwilliam. Paul Raymond, Jr., obtained an alteration of the road extending from "the top of the hill, in Jonas Heywood's land to the road now trod at Asa Robertson's barn."

A new attempt was made on the 10th of September to get a road by the house of Abner Curtice, with the probable design of making his place the centre of the town.



In 1791, May 9, a road was accepted from George Coffin's to Bill Hancock's; that is, from Columbus C. Alger's by the house of Luke Rice. This was never opened to travel. A few other roads were accepted not far from this time, but they will be included in a subsequent description.

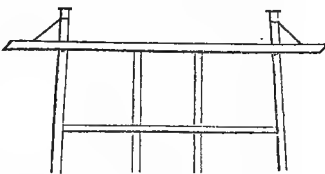
#### SECTION 4.—THE BRIDGE BY DR. HALL'S.

On the fourth of April, 1791, a committee was chosen to repair the bridge by Dr. Hall's. Another committee to build the bridge over the river by Mr. Goodhue's, had been chosen in the preceding November. Both votes referred to the same bridge. May 9, the project of repairing the bridge by Dr. Ziba Hall's was given up, and a committee consisting of Benjamin Hall, Esq., Lieut. Joseph Boynton and Mr. Thomas Graton, was chosen "to report what bridge shall be built by Dr. Hall's" who reported as below. It is a fair inference that the bridge built by the lottery-money was a miserable failure and worthy of its origin. The Report is here given in full, with the letting out of the works, as it may be pleasant to carpenters, bridge builders, and others, to know how things were done, and at what prices, seventy-five years ago. The Report is as follows:

#### "REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee propose to have the bridge built after the above plan, and to be sixteen feet wide, and to have the posts so long as to have the bridge lay straight from one buttment to the other; the cap pieces and the outside parts to be got sixteen inches square; the inside parts to be got 12 inches square; the girts to be got 12 by 8 inches square, and to have the rails framed on to the top of the cap pieces."

PLAN OF SAID BRIDGE.



This Report was accepted. Then Thomas Graton, Ziba Hall and John Burr were chosen a committee "to let out the bridge if they can, to advantage, and report" to an adjourned meeting; which they accordingly did on the 8th of September. In the meantime, £20 had been granted for the purpose of building the bridge. The Report, which was adopted, was as follows:

“List of timber for completing the bridge.

|  |   |  |           |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| Provided by Mr. David Farrar.  | { | 4 cap sticks, 16 by 16, 20 feet long.  |           |
|  |   | 8 posts, 16 by 16, 18 feet long.   |           |
|  |   | 4 “ 12 by 12, 18 feet long,  | £4, 13s.  |
| Mr. Joseph Heywood.  | { | Raving the bridge compleate,   | 1, 4.     |
|  | { | Logs for 1000 plank delivered at the mill,   | 0, 18.    |
| Mr. Haywood Kidder,  |   | Ten string sticks, at 3s. each,  | 1, 10.    |
| Mr. Nath'l Bixby.  | { | 4 small posts, 12 by 12, 18 long,  |           |
|  | { | 4 girths, 12 by 12, 20 long.   | 16.       |
| Jewett Darling, James Murdock.   | { | Plank logs for 1500 feet of plank,   | 1, 10.    |
| James Hall,  |   | One oak log for braces,  | 5.        |
| Mr. Bart'l'w Stearns.  | { | Framing, raising and covering, fit for raving,   | 5, 0.     |
| Ziba Hall.   | { | Sawing 2500 feet plank, and moving the same to the bridge, and sawing the braces for do. | 2 10.     |
|  |   |  | £18, 6.   |
| Service of the committee in letting out the above business, and attending on the same, |   |  | 1, 10.    |
|  |   |  | £19, 16.” |

Thus the committee came four shillings within the amount appropriated.

The next year it was voted to put extra work on the road leading from Dr. Hall's, (by the mill,) to Fitzwilliam; and a road was accepted from Amos Edmands' to the old road leading from the Village to Ezra Hyde's. In May, it was voted to alter the road from near the Boynton place north to the Rindge line. This road was “just west of Hananiah Whitney's [Joshua Nutting's] house.”

In 1793, May 6, £30 were granted “to be laid out on the county road between Mr. Kidder's and Fitzwilliam. A road for Levi Divoll, leading westerly to the road extending from Israel Whitcomb's by the poor farm to the meeting house, was accepted. Also, a road for Aaron Massey.

In 1794, £150 was the grant for highways. On the 5th of May, a road for Ezra Hyde was accepted, leading from his house down the hill, across Miller's river, where the two pail shops now stand, and a few rods on to the road that went from Nichols' tavern over Benjamin hill, by Dea. Samuel Prentice's to Royalston.

In 1795, there was considerable stir about roads, but these were generally short, and for private convenience. Samuel Brown secured the change of direction of one or two roads on the east of his farm, near Thomas Greenwood's; and a road was laid out for Mr. Isaac Taylor, in the southeast section of the town; and a slight alteration was made in the road at the north end. It was also voted, September 3, "to mend the north end of the bridge by Goodhue's mill;" and on the 24th, "to repair the bridge over Miller's river by Mr. Crooks', to last this fall, and preparations be made for building a bridge next summer."

In 1796, April 4, an important vote was passed, viz: "that the town will lay out their roads for the future by a point of compass." Up to this time the mode had been on this wise: "from a stake and stones by Mr.——'s barn to a pine tree with — chops, — rods; thence to a beech tree with — chops, — rods," and so forth. On this account it has been exceedingly difficult for the author to trace many of the old roads.

On the 5th of May, a committee was chosen "to oppose the new county road proposed to be laid out in the westerly part." This was another project to compel the town to build a road which would divert travel and business away from it. A proposal for a road from James Raymond's to Dudley Perley's, was negatived. This was renewed from time to time, but always defeated; the fear being probably that it would gradually lead the people in the east section, to do business in the Village, where were a store and mills. A half century passed away, and then a road was opened from the Estey school house by the houses of Mr. Raymond's children, on the way to Gardner.

In 1797, May 2, a road was accepted from Mr. Phinehas Parks' to Mr. Amos Edmand's. This was "cut out" in part, but afterwards the vote was reconsidered. Like the Raymond road, it was delayed more than half a century, and then laid from Mr. Parks' to Hydeville. It was a great point to secure the travel from Fitzwilliam; therefore £50 were granted to improve the road beyond Mr. Kidder's, and on to the State line.

The county road on the westerly side was put through, notwithstanding the opposition of the town, and then in 1799, the grand inquest of the county found an indictment against the town for not making and

keeping in repair a county road, that was laid out in 1797. Dea. Moses Hale was chosen as agent to appear in behalf of the town at the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at Worcester, and make answer. At the same time, chose Mr. Paul Raymond, Jr., as a committee "to hire as much labor as he can for fifty dollars, to be laid out to the best advantage on said county road." This was Lieut. Paul Raymond, son of Lt. Col. Paul Raymond, and father of the late Dea. Paul Raymond. His name appears in connection with roads and bridges during the next quarter of a century. The Selectmen were charged with repairing or building the bridge over Miller's river near Mr. John Day's, but afterwards the matter was put into the hands of Lieut. Paul Raymond, "to repair the old bridge and causey," with sixty dollars to pay expenses. Later, \$48 dollars were added.

The expense of opposing the new county road and of neglecting to work upon it ran up to quite a sum—viz :

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| " Expense of opposing the road, \$60. |        |
| The Presentment cost,                 | 30.    |
| Expense of the Council,               | 44.98. |
| Edward Bangs, Esq.,                   | 34."   |

1800, May 28. The town adopted the following mode to be observed in future in laying out town roads and private ways, viz : "that when a new way is to be laid out, the course and distance shall be ascertained, unless the whole of said way is laid out on the side of a lot or lots." This was at the opening of the new century, and as in the course of a year or two, the town had all the old roads which were considered necessary, straightened, we have come to a natural point of division to our subject. Our travels over the roads of Winchendon, on paper, will be resumed in due time. Meanwhile other parts of the history will be brought forward to this period.

CHAPTER XI.—THE TOWN AS A  
PARISH.*Hor.*

Is it a custom?

*Ham.* Ay, marry, is't;

But to my mind, though I am native here,

And to the manner born,—it is a custom

More honored in the breach, than the observance."

HAMLET.

## PRELIMINARY.

In former times the towns of this Commonwealth were legal parishes, and the churches were generally in connection with them. Both had a distinct existence; but in some respects acted in unison. The church was a purely religious body, made up of voluntary adherents, and had the whole matter of determining the principles on which it was founded, its by-laws, and methods of discipline, in its own power. It received, dismissed, disciplined and excommunicated members without being subject to external control. It chose its own officers, whether Pastors, Deacons, Clerks or Committees, and was amenable to no authority save that of Christ, the Head of the Church, though seeking fraternal sympathy and advice through the agency of Ecclesiastical Councils. But for the purpose of raising funds to build houses of worship, support the ministry, and pay other charges, parishes were formed. As said above, by the laws and usages of this State, the towns acted as parishes in connection with the Congregational churches. In accordance with this fact, the town of Winchendon was a parish, and continued to act in that capacity down to about the year 1825, when the union between it and the Congregational church was dissolved. Out of this relation it comes that quite a portion of the town history pertains to religious affairs, such as church-building and sustaining the ministry. The ecclesiastical history of the town will be given hereafter in the history of each

church within its bounds ; but the history of Winchendon as a parish will receive distinct treatment in this chapter.

As preliminary and strictly in order, it will be proper to relate whatever was done by the Proprietors for the establishment of public worship in the place. The early settlers, as well as the Proprietors, were men who understood the value of religious institutions. Some of them—how many is not certainly known—were members of the Church of Christ.

At a Proprietors' meeting held on the 27th of October, 1737, it was voted "that five acres be reserved out of the Lott No. 1, in the South Division, for building a meeting-house ; also for a burying yard, and a training-field." In February, 1737-8, it was voted that "four acres be cleared in the meeting-house lot, in the most convenient place for erecting a meeting-house, and to be sowed with herd's-grass ;" and a committee of four was chosen to agree when to clear, in order for the location of a meeting-house." About 1752, the frame of a small meeting-house was raised, not far from the hearse house. This was never finished. On July 3d, 1753, Thomas Wilder and Abijah Smith were chosen a committee to prepare stuff in order to build a meeting-house next spring. This was not carried out, for on the 24th of October, "the first frame erected for a meeting-house was granted to Col. Berry, to enable him to build a suitable and convenient room to meet in on the Sabbath days for public worship." On the 31st of October "one dollar was assessed on each and every right, to pay for preaching the winter coming." Messrs. John Brown and Thomas Jewett were desired to provide a suitable person to preach for them.

In 1759 there were about thirty men in the place, some of whom had families, and it is on record, that a Rev. Mr. Harvey was with them as a preacher. On the 31st of October the land laid out for a meeting-house lot, &c., was accepted. In 1761, September 22, it was voted "to raise two dollars on each original right to pay for preaching." The committee were ordered to "provide a preacher half the Sabbaths ;" and it was voted "to build a meeting-house 30x45, 20 feet posts." The next year the people concluded that it was best to select a new spot for the meeting-house lot, and training-field, leaving the old spot for a burying ground. It was then determined to place the new meeting-house on the present central Common. This was erected forthwith, and though

never painted or finished, was made fit to be occupied as a place of worship.\*

#### SECTION 1.—MR. STIMPSON'S MINISTRY.

It was voted to settle a minister. This implies that a Church had been, or was about to be formed. Mr. Daniel Stimpson was invited to settle, and was offered "the minister's right, and sixty pounds of money, and sixty pounds salary." On the 17th of November it was

"*Voted* that instead of giving ye said Daniel Stimpson sixty pounds salary yearly so long as he shall carry on the ministry, to give him sixty pounds salary yearly so long as he shall continue our minister."

This was intended to secure his support in sickness and old age, even if he might not be able "to carry on the ministry."

Mr. Stimpson was ordained on the 15th of December, 1762, by a Council called by the Proprietors. The Church was formed at the time of the meeting of the Council, and probably gave Mr. Stimpson a regular "call." What particulars there are relating to this transaction, will be given in the history of the Church. The committee who acted for the Proprietors were Bartholomew Parsons, Richard Day and Samuel Titus.†

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\*It may interest some readers to see the record of the meetings of the Proprietors in regard to this subject. Benjamin Goodridge, Abijah Smith, and Philip Goodridge were chosen a committee to let out the meeting-house. They were empowered to see "that the said meeting-house be hewed, framed and raised, the outside boarded, shingled, and clapboarded, window sashes and glass put up, door heads and doors be made, the lower floor be laid, and the frame be underpinned with convenient stones." This action was taken on the 22d of September, 1761.

A legal meeting of the Proprietors was held at the house of Richard Day, June 30, 1762, at which Benjamin Goodridge, Richard Day and Bartholomew Parsons, were chosen a committee to "view and stake out a meeting-house plat." This committee made the following report: "Laid out five acres of land for a meeting-house, training field and burying yard, on the northwest corner of the lot No. 1, in the south division, beginning at the northwest corner bound, running south 48 rods, on line of said lot, then easterly 16 1-2 rods, then running northerly a parallel line with the west line 48 rods, and then to the place where we began." The Proprietors approved the report, and voted to have the house placed on lot No. 1, instead of lot No. 30, which had been selected for that purpose. The committee were then directed "to build said meeting-house, to raise the house on the plat where they judge most convenient."

†The proceedings of the Proprietors in regard to this important subject, were as follows, as stated in their Book of Records. "At a legal meeting of the Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, assembled and met at the house of Mr. Richard Day, innholder at Ipswich Canada, June 30, 1762,

The town was incorporated in 1764, and soon assumed the duties of a parish, but it is recorded under date of June 24th, 1767, that the Proprietors "voted to pay Rev. Mr. Daniel Stimpson the sum of thirty-seven pounds, five shillings and eight pence." It was manifestly just that the Proprietors, being large landholders, should unite with the town in supporting the ministry.

In 1765, September 4, there was a sale of pew ground.

Mr. Stimpson died of a violent, putrid fever, on the 20th of July, 1768, after a ministry of less than six years. The town met the same day and voted "to bear the charges that may arise at the funeral of our deceased pastor;" and "that the Bearers be desired to preach one Sabbath day" each. The funeral of Mr. Stimpson was on the 22d, the second day after his decease, and was hastened on account of the intense heat, and the putrescent nature of his disease. The town paid the charges, and it may gratify a reasonable curiosity to read the bill, which was as follows:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| "To diners for the Bearers, 3s. ; to providing for three        | £0, 3, 0, 0. |
| Ministers two nights and one day, 9s. ; to providing food,      | 0, 9, 0, 0.  |
| Three do. one night, and one day, 6s.,                          | 0, 6, 0, 0.  |
| To digging the grave, 4s. ; to three pair of Gloves, 7s., 2, 2, | 0, 11, 2, 2. |
| To Brandy, 3s., 7d., 1q. ; to brown sugar, 6s. ; to Loaf        |              |
| Sugar, 1s., 6d.,  | 0, 11, 1, 1. |
| To two Quarts of Rum, 1s., 9,                                   | 0, 1, 9, 0.  |

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*Voted*, That the Proprietors will settle a minister provided the inhabitants can find a man that will settle with them.

*Voted*, That the Proprietors will give to Mr. Daniel Stimpson the Minister's Right [of land] granted by the Court, and £60 of money as a settlement, provided he will settle and perform the office of a gospel minister in the township; and also to give him £60 salary, so long as he shall carry on the work of the ministry in said township."

Nov. 17, "It was put to vote to see if the Proprietors would make any alteration in their former [action] respecting Mr. Daniel Stimpson's salary.

*Voted*, That instead of giving the said Daniel Stimpson sixty pounds salary so long as he shall carry on the ministry—to give him sixty pounds yearly so long as he shall continue our minister in said township.

*Voted*, That Mr. Daniel Stimpson be ordained the 15th day of December next, and that the church in Weston, the church in Harvard, the church in Lunenburg, and the church in Dorchester Canada, be sent to, to assist in his ordination.

*Voted*, That Bartholomew Parsons, Richard Day and Samuel Titus, be a committee to send letters missive to the above-named churches to assist in the ordination of Mr. Daniel Stimpson, in the name of the Proprietors.

*Voted*, To allow Richard Day £4 in order to enable him to entertain the Council, and Mr. Stimpson's relations, at his ordination."



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| To several articles from Dr. Taylor's, procured by Mr. Richard Pearson, amounting to | 2, 17, 11, 1.       |
| To making a Coffin,  | 0, 6, 0, 0.         |
| Total,   | <hr/> 5, 06, 0, 0." |

On the 28th of August it was voted "to hire preaching," and then more definitely, "to provide preaching twelve Sabbaths with what may be given to us."

#### SECTION 2.—MR. BROWN'S MINISTRY.

On the 20th of the following November it was voted "to have preaching this winter," and also to hear Mr. Joseph Brown "four Sabbaths more." It is probable that he remained here through the winter, for on the 2d day of January, 1769, the town "made choice of Mr. Joseph Brown by a unanimous vote to settle with us in the ministry." They then

*Voted* and granted fifty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence for an encouragement for him to settle with us in the ministry, to be paid as followeth, viz: Sixty-six pounds, thirteen shilling and four pence to be paid at the end of six months from his ordination, and the remaining part to be paid at the end of twelve months from the first payment; agreeable to the vote of the church.

*Voted* to concur with the vote of the Church to give Mr Joseph Brown fifty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, as salary annually for the space of five years, and at the expiration of the abovesaid term of five years, to give Mr. Joseph Brown sixty pounds annually, until the town of Winchendon increaseth to the No. of one hundred families, and then sixty-six pound, thirteen shilling, and four pence annually so long as he shall continue to be our minister."

Besides this offer, the Proprietors had granted, after Mr. Stimpson's death, two additional lots of land to aid in the settlement of another minister. In addition, on the 6th of March, 1769, liberty was granted for Mr. Joseph Brown "to be absent two Sabbaths in a year annually." At the same time it was voted "to seat the Meeting-house agreeable to the estates both real and personal, having some reference to age."

The former of these last two votes proves that the custom of giving ministers two or more Sabbaths yearly, is not of recent origin, as many suppose. The last vote reminds us of an age that has forever passed away. The custom of "seating" the meeting-house was a relic of the times when people made much of rank and distinction. It was brought from the old country and lingered here nearly two hundred years after

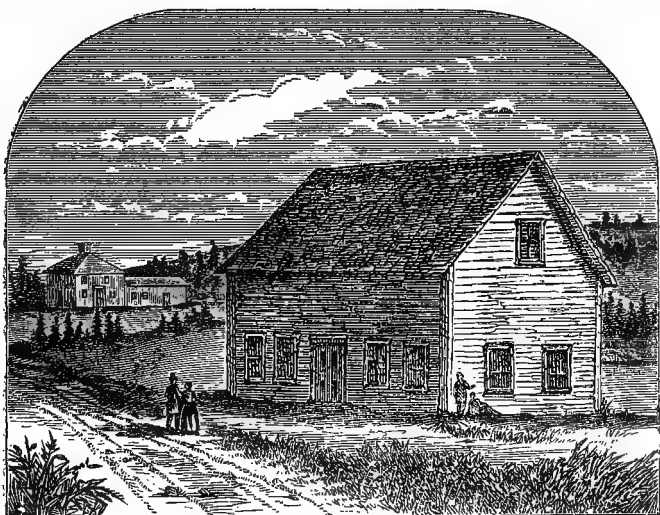
the settlement of Boston. In former times the students in College were not arranged alphabetically, but their names were printed according to the rank in life of their fathers. In "seating" the meeting-houses in towns where there were people of different classes, regard was had to their relative position. Governors were in the first rank, as a matter of course. Then came the Lieut. Governor, Counsellors, Senators, Representatives, military officers of high rank, Clergymen, Esquires, Gentlemen, Yeomen, &c. In a place like Winchendon, such a mode of grading was scarcely possible, and therefore the people took the less invidious plan of seating "by estates both real and personal, having some reference to age." In a congregation of farmers it was known who had the largest property, but it would be intolerable to have one set above another on account of supposed superior worth. Not personal qualities, but the accident of property, was therefore wisely selected as the title to a "higher seat in the synagogue." But this was not all. The people of those times respected gray hairs, and therefore "some reference to age" was observed.

On the 20th of March, the town voted to have the ordination on the 24th of the ensuing May, and granted £3, 16, to enable Mr. Silas Whitney to entertain the Council for Mr. Brown's ordination. The ordination took place accordingly, and the new minister was happily settled, among a united people, and with a comfortable provision for his support. "Numerous accessions" says Dr. Whiton, "of settlers in the three or four preceding years had increased the number of families, it is estimated, to nearly sixty, and the population to about three hundred and fifty, a number which, accustomed as was that generation to a constant and universal attendance on public worship, would furnish a congregation by no means inconsiderable. For many years Mr. Brown's connection with the people was harmonious and acceptable to both parties."

### SECTION 3.—FIRST MEETING HOUSE.

In 1771 a proposition to widen the alleys in the meeting-house, and to paint the pulpit was negatived. The Minister being now settled, and the people being united in one mode of worship, there is nothing left for history in this line, for several years. A few words may be devoted to the first meeting-house. As stated already, a frame was erected near the burying-yard, but it was never enclosed and fitted for use. The

first house of worship was put up on the present Common, near the south-east corner, just north of the road that passes between the site and the house of Mr. Benjamin Wilder. This house was 30 by 45 feet, and the posts were twenty feet high. The house was never painted outside nor inside; not even the pulpit; neither was it ceiled or plastered. Clapboards and shingles kept out the cold in winter to such a degree that the people, with foot-stoves, could continue to live through the morning service. They then adjourned to the tavern, on the southeast corner of the Common, across the road, or to private houses, where a good fire, some hot drink, and a luncheon, fortified them for the rigors of the afternoon meeting. The floor was covered with benches where the worshippers sat as they were "seated" by a committee annually chosen for that purpose. There is no picture of the Meeting-house in existence; probably never was; but from the recollections of aged people the sketch below has been made by Mr. ROBERT HILL, and they agree that it gives



a tolerably correct notion of the external appearance of the first sanctuary ever used in Winchendon, for the worship of Almighty God.

In 1775, at the March meeting, £60 was raised for the Minister, according to the agreement when he was settled. Three years later, measures were taken to make up for him the depreciation of paper. Thus on the 23d of January, 1778, a committee of five, viz: Dea.

Moses Hale, Jacob Hale, John Boynton, Abel Wilder and James Coolidge,—was chosen “to draw subscription papers, and see what the people will give to Mr. Brown in consideration of the high prices on the necessaries of life.” It would seem that the subscription failed, since at an adjourned meeting, when the report of the committee was made, a vote was passed “to make some compensation to Mr. Brown by way of a tax.” The town granted £50. The next year the town voted ... “to pay Mr. Brown, £53, 6, 8, in produce of the farm, labor, &c., at the prices they generally bore in the year 1774; Rye at 4s. per bushel, and labor in hay-time at 2s., 8, per day; or so much money as will purchase so much produce and labor.” This was going back to the original salary nearly, but when we consider the “hard times,” it was a liberal arrangement.

In 1783, February 10, the town took action on an article in the warrant “to see if the town will vote to exempt those persons from paying taxes to the settled minister in the town who attend Baptist or Friends’ meeting.” The article was passed over; but at the March meeting, the question came up again, when it was voted to submit the matter to the judgment of the assessors. One of these petitioners was Mr. Jeremiah Stuart. This town was always firm in its adherence to the principles of civil and religious freedom.

#### SECTION 4.—THE SECOND MEETING HOUSE.

1790, March 1. Will the town build a new meeting-house? Nay. But a new house must be had, and so the town voted, on the 10th of September, “to build a new meeting-house in this town.” They chose a committee of five “to propose ways and means for said house,” viz: Abel Wilder, Esq., Dea. Moses Hale, Mr. Thomas Graton, Benjamin Hall, Esq., and Dea. Samuel Prentice. The committee were to report to the town at an adjourned meeting. This meeting was held October 4, when the report was probably presented. At all events, the town took definite action on the subject; and as the enterprise was the occasion of much feeling and excitement for several years, and furthermore as the enlarged church-accommodation furnished by the new house was a source of vast intellectual, moral, social and religious benefit to the inhabitants, the proceedings in relation to its erection will be given

at considerable length. At the meeting on the 4th of October, the following votes were passed :

*Voted*, to set the new meeting-house on the meeting-house Common.

*Voted*, That said house be 60 feet in length, 50 feet in width, 27 feet posts, and a porch at each end of the house 10 feet on the house, 14 feet deep.

*Voted* 54 pews on the lower floor, and 24 in the galleries, and 3 seats on each side below, and 3 in the galleries.

*Voted*, That there be 20 windows, 40 squares in each window, below, and 21, 35 squares in each, in the galleries ; the pulpit and gable end windows excepted.

*Voted*, That the pews be sold at public vendue to the inhabitants, to procure materials and workmen for building the house : That the purchasers of pews give security for the same to the acceptance of the committee.

*Voted*, That the materials be divided into small lots, and let out to those persons who will procure the same the cheapest.

*Voted*, That the frame be raised in the fore part of the season in the year 1792.

*Voted*, That the materials for building be delivered at such time and place, as the committee for building the meeting-house shall direct.

*Voted*, To choose a committee to see to the building of said house.

*Voted*, The committee to consist of three persons.

*Voted*, and chose Abel Wilder, Esq., Mr. Thomas Graton and Benjamin Hall, Esq., for the above committee."

Another meeting was held, November 1, when farther action was taken as given below.

*Voted* To reserve one pew in said house for a ministerial pew.

*Voted*, Pew west of the pulpit, next to it, for a ministerial pew.

*Voted*, To choose a committee of three persons to pitch upon a spot to set the new meeting-house upon.

*Voted* and chose Mr. James Steel, Dea. Moses Hale, and Doct. Ziba Hall for the above committee.

*Voted*, To set the south side of the new meeting-house 30 feet north of the north side of the old meeting-house.

*Voted*, To accept of the plan of said house that the committee has drafted and laid before the town.

*Voted*, and accepted the conditions of the sale of the pews the committee has proposed."

The sale of the pews as they were arranged in the draft or plan then took place, and it cannot fail to be interesting to all the children and

descendants of the purchasers to read the record of the sale. It is in these words :

"1790, Nov. 1. At a vendue held for the sale of the pews in the meeting-house voted to be built at a meeting held September 10, 1790, at the meeting-house in Winchendon aforesaid, the pews were sold as follows, viz :

|        |               |   |                |          |
|--------|---------------|---|----------------|----------|
| No. 1, | struck off to | Capt. Daniel Hubbard,                             | for forty      | dollars. |
| " 2,   | "             | Abner Curtice,                                    | " seventy-one  | "        |
| " 3,   | "             | Dea. Moses Hale,                                  | " forty-one    | "        |
| " 4,   | "             | " "   | " thirty-nine  | "        |
| " 5,   | "             | Benjamin Hall, Esq.,                              | " forty        | "        |
| " 6,   | "             | Dr. Ziba Hall,                                    | " forty        | "        |
| " 7,   | "             | Dea. Levi Moor,                                   | " thirty eight | "        |
| " 8,   | "             | Lieut. Jacob B. Woodbury,                         | " thirty-seven | "        |
| " 9,   | "             | Samuel Crosby, Esq.,                              | " forty        | "        |
| " 10,  | "             | Bemsly Lord,                                      | " thirty-nine  | "        |
| " 11,  | "             | David Stoddard,                                   | " forty        | "        |
| " 12,  | "             | Jacob Hale,                                       | " thirty-six   | "        |
| " 13,  | "             | Samuel Crosby, Esq.,                              | " thirty-nine  | "        |
| " 14,  | "             | Benjamin Brown,                                   | " forty        | "        |
| " 15,  | "             | Capt. Joseph Wilder                               | " "            | "        |
| " 16,  | "             | James Hall,                                       | " "            | "        |
| " 17,  | "             | Samuel Brown,                                     | " "            | "        |
| " 18,  | "             | Amos Hale,  | " thirty-nine  | "        |
| " 19,  | "             | James Stoddard,                                   | " forty        | "        |
| " 20,  | "             | Lieut. David Poor,                                | " "            | "        |
| " 21,  | "             | Roger Bigelow,                                    | " thirty-eight | "        |
| " 22,  | "             | Abel Jones,                                       | " thirty-six   | "        |
| " 23,  | "             | John Goodhue,                                     | " thirty-seven | "        |
| " 24,  | "             | Jesse Ellis,                                      | " thirty-eight | "        |
| " 25,  | "             | Paul Raymond, Jr.,                                | " forty        | "        |
| " 26,  | "             | Eliphalet Goodridge,                              | " thirty-nine  | "        |
| " 27,  | "             | David Smith and<br>Thomas Greenwood,              | " "            | "        |
| " 28,  | "             | James McElwain,                                   | " forty-one    | "        |
| " 29,  | "             | Joseph Sweetzer,                                  | " "            | "        |
| " 30,  | "             | Assigned by the town for a Ministerial pew.       |                |          |
| " 31,  | Struck off to | William Whitney,                                  | for sixty-two  | dollars. |
| " 32,  | "             | Joseph Sweetzer,                                  | " forty-one    | "        |
| " 33,  | "             | Dea. Moses Hale,                                  | " forty-seven  | "        |
| " 34,  | "             | Rev. Mr. Brown,                                   | " forty-five   | "        |
| " 35,  | "             | Thomas Graton,                                    | " thirty-eight | "        |
| " 36,  | "             | Francis Goodhue and<br>Francis Goodhue, Jr.,      | " thirty-seven | "        |
| " 37,  | "             | Ensign Adonijah Bixby, and<br>Amos Heywood,       | " thirty-five  | "        |
| " 38,  | "             | James Payson,                                     | " forty        | "        |
| " 39,  | "             | Dea. Samuel Prentice and<br>Samuel Prentice, Jr., | " "            | "        |
| " 40,  | "             | Jeremiah Lord,                                    | " thirty-nine  | "        |

|         |               |                        |                 |          |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| No. 41, | struck off to | Lieut. John Burr,      | for thirty-nine | dollars. |
| " 42,   | "             | Bill Hancock,          | " thirty-eight  | "        |
| " 43,   | "             | Daniel Goodridge,      | " forty-two     | "        |
| " 44,   | "             | Dr. Israel Whiton,     | " forty-nine    | "        |
| " 45,   | "             | Lieut. Joseph Boynton, | " fifty         | "        |
| " 46,   | "             | Abel Wilder,           | "               | "        |
| " 47,   | "             | Desire Tolman,         | " forty         | "        |
| " 48,   | "             | Abner Curtice, Jr.,    | " thirty-six    | "        |
| " 49,   | "             | Benjamin Hall, Esq.,   | "               | "        |
| " 50,   | "             | Isaac Noyes,           | " thirty-eight  | "        |
| " 51,   | "             | Josiah Bruce,          | "               | "        |
| " 52,   | "             | Daniel Goodridge,      | "               | "        |
| " 53,   | "             | Capt. Paul Boynton,    | "               | "        |
| " 54,   | "             | Amos Merriam,          | " forty         | "        |

## THE GALLERY PEWS.

|        |   |  |               |   |
|--------|---|--|---------------|---|
| No. 1, | " | Dea. Moses Hale,                           | " twenty-four | " |
| " 2,   | " | Abel Wilder, Jr.,                          | " seventeen   | " |
| " 3,   | " | Samuel P. Goodridge,                       | " sixteen     | " |
| " 4,   | " | George Coffin,                             | " fifteen     | " |
| " 5,   | " | Lemuel Heywood,                            | "             | " |
| " 6,   | " | Thomas Graton and<br>Francis Goodhue, Jr., | " fourteen    | " |
| " 7,   | " | Samuel Crosby, Esq.,                       | " twelve      | " |
| " 8,   | " | Dea. Moses Hale,                           | " twenty-two  | " |
| " 9,   | " | Abel Brown,                                | " thirteen    | " |
| " 10,  | " | Thomas Wyman,                              | " fifteen     | " |
| " 11,  | " | Ziba Hall and Thomas Wilder,               | " fifteen     | " |
| " 12,  | " | Dea. Moses Hale,                           | " sixteen     | " |
| " 13,  | " | Joseph Sweetzer,                           | "             | " |
| " 14,  | " | Dea. Moses Hale,                           | " twelve      | " |
| " 15,  | " | Levi Divoll,                               | " fifteen     | " |
| " 16,  | " | John Burr,                                 | " fourteen    | " |
| " 17,  | " | Dea. Moses Hale,                           | " seventeen   | " |
| " 18,  | " | Josiah Bruce,                              | " thirteen    | " |
| " 19,  | " | Jedediah Tuttle,                           | " fourteen    | " |
| " 20,  | " | Daniel Day,                                | " thirteen    | " |
| " 21,  | " | Joseph Sweetzer,                           | " fourteen    | " |
| " 22,  | " | "  | " twenty-one  | " |
| " 23,  | " | Jeremiah Stuart, Jr.,                      | " thirteen    | " |
| " 24,  | " | Benjamin Hall, Esq.,                       | " nineteen    | " |

ABEL WILDER,  
THOMAS GRATON, } *Committee.*  
BENJAMIN HALL, }

*Voted* to establish and confirm the pews mentioned in the foregoing report, to the purchasers whose names are thereunto annexed, and to their heirs and assigns forever."

The following were fixed as the "Conditions of Sale."

"Each person who bids off a pew must give security for the sum the pew sells for, with sufficient bondsmen; two shillings and six pence on the pound to be paid in cash on or before the first of November, 1791; the remainder to be paid in materials or in pay of the workmen, provided the materials are procured and delivered agreeable to the vote of the town; the security to be given immediately upon the sale; or fifteen shillings paid down in cash, or a note on demand as earnest, and the securities to be given on a day the committee shall appoint for the remainder. The above conditions was accepted by the town."

"Voted and accepted of the form of the note the committee laid before the town—the purchasers of pews have signed—which form is as follows:

WINCHENDON, November first, 1790.

For value received, we, the subscribers, jointly and severally promise the inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, to pay them — pounds in materials for building a meeting-house, or in pay of the workmen to be on demand after ten months from the date hereof. Witness our hands."

On the 29th of November, a meeting was held, when the town "voted and accepted the conditions of sale the committee has draughted for the materials." They also appointed Dea. Moses Hale for the "vendue master," and voted that the "posts of said meeting-house be 28 feet in length; and that there be 40 squares of glass in each window." On the 20th of December, it was voted "to have banisters in the pews," and that "the committee shall procure the glass."

On the 9th of May, 1791, the town accepted and approved the sale of the pews made in the preceding November. At a meeting, November 7, the town voted "to agree with some person or persons to make provision for the raisers to raise the meeting-house," and granted £30 to pay the expense. Then voted "that the committee for building the house let out to the lowest bidder the provision for the raising the new meeting-house."

#### LOCATION OF THE HOUSE.

The town now encountered a difficulty which caused great division and heart-burning. The question of location had been settled once, but a large party were dissatisfied, and made strenuous opposition. Those who lived south of the old spot were unwilling to place the new house very far north of the old site, while those living north contended



for a spot nearer the northern end of the Common. The contest broke out at a meeting on the 21st of November, 1791, when it was

“Voted to re-consider a vote passed in a former meeting, November 1, 1790, which was to set the south side of the new meeting-house 30 feet north of the north side of the old meeting-house. Yeas, 47 ; nays; 25.

Voted to choose a committee of seven persons to pitch upon a spot to set the meeting-house upon, and report at the adjournment of this meeting.

Voted and chose Abel Wilder, Esq., Dea. Samuel Prentice, Doct. Ziba Hall, Lieut. John Burr, Mr. Thomas Graton, Mr. James Steel, and Samuel Crosby, Esq., for the above committee.”

Dea. Hale, indignant at this vote, resigned being moderator, and Dea. Samuel Prentice was chosen moderator in his stead. The meeting was adjourned to Thursday, when the town then met, and “voted and accepted of the report of the committee,” which is as follows, viz :

“WINCHENDON, Nov. 24, 1791.

The committee appointed on the 21 of this instant, to view and report the most convenient spot to build a meeting-house upon, have attended that service, and a majority of that committee agree that the meeting-house be set one hundred and twenty feet south of Luther Stimson’s\* house, and thirty-one feet east of the stone wall by Mr. Brown’s garden.

By order of the committee,

ABEL WILDER, *Chairman.*”

On the 26th of December, the town met again, and voted “to choose a committee of six persons to review and pitch upon a spot to set the new meeting-house, and report at the adjournment of this meeting.” The following are the names of the committee, viz : Abel Wilder, Esq., Dea. Moses Hale, Samuel Crosby, Esq., Mr. William Whitney, Benjamin Hall, Esq., and Dea. Samuel Prentice.

After several unimportant meetings, the town met according to adjournment, on the third of May, 1792, and voted to adjourn the meeting for half an hour for the purpose of viewing the northerly part of the Common, in order to see if the town could agree, unanimously, upon a spot of ground to set the new meeting-house upon. After taking a view, the town met again ; and after some debate, it was tried by a vote to see if the town would re-consider the vote passed at a former meeting respecting placing the meeting-house in the northerly part of

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\*Stimson’s house was at the north end.

the Common. The motion failed. Then it was voted that the selectmen should purchase a "barrel of West India rum, and a quantity of sugar sufficient to make it into toddy, and that it be expended partly upon the men that assist the day preceding the day set for raising the meeting-house, in laying the timber in order for raising; and the remaining part upon the people that attend as spectators at the raising, and that the selectmen see that it is properly dealt out." A vote was then passed to allow Ensign David Rice a "sum of money over and above what he was heretofore agreed with to provide for those persons who raise the meeting-house; the sum to be determined by the rise of West India articles since said Rice agreed to make provision for the raising."

It was then voted that the committee "for building said house, shall not receive any stuff for said house of those persons who agreed to procure it, after the 20th day of May current, and that the committee purchase seasoned stuff after that time in the best manner they can, if any is wanted."

At an adjourned meeting held on the 7th of May, the contest respecting the location of the house was renewed, and after some debate, it was put "to see if the town would agree to set the meeting-house three rods southerly from the place lately agreed upon to build said house." The town voted to re-consider their vote for placing the house one hundred and twenty feet from the north side of the Common, and then voted to set the north side of the house one hundred and seventy feet from the north line of the Common; and "that the east end of said house should stand nearly on a ridge that was made by the east side of the field." The following citations give signs of returning harmony.

"May 31. The town met according to adjournment, and voted to choose a committee of three persons to use their endeavors to settle matters of difficulty respecting the meeting-house. Messrs. Thomas Graton, Amos Heywood, and James Steel were chosen for said purpose. Then the meeting was adjourned for one hour. The town met according to adjournment, and the committee reported verbally that proposals were made for accommodation."

The meeting adjourned to June 15, but the house was raised before that date, as appears by the following.

June 15th. The town met according to adjournment, and after some de-

bate, voted that the committee for building the meeting-house purchase such articles as are necessary to finish said house, in the best way and manner they can, and go on with the work as soon as may be with convenience. Then voted that the time for bringing in materials for finishing said house, except clear boards for inside work not seasoned, be lengthened out until the twenty-fifth of June current; boards for lathing to be received until July tenth, of those persons who agreed to find materials.

The town voted that the committee have leave to alter the plan of the pulpit stairs as they shall think will be best; and that Ensign David Rice be allowed for entertaining eleven men on the day the meeting house was raised over and above the 100 men he agreed to provide for, and that he be allowed in the same proportion for the eleven men as for the one hundred; and also that he be allowed 16s, 8d, for what he found for those persons who belonged out of town, and assisted the second day in raising the roof of the meeting house."

The following citations show the progress of the work, and the ancient way of doing things.

"September 5. The town met according to adjournment, and granted the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds in addition to the money raised by the sale of pew ground, to defray the charge of building the meeting house in said town. Adjourned to October 24th, and then to the 29th, when it was voted that the £150 granted the fifth day of September last, be paid into the treasury on or before the first day of January next. Adjourned to the first Monday in September," when the town met and made choice of Lieut. John Burr a committee-man for finishing the meeting-house in the room of the Hon. Abel Wilder,\* deceased." Dec. 17, "Met according to adjournment, and voted that the Treasurer be directed to receive the meeting-house committee orders to the amount of £150. Then voted to sell the refuse boards, stone drags, old casks &c., that belong to the town that were left at the new meeting-house at public vendue. Then voted that the first day of January, 1793, be the day to dedicate the new meeting-house. Then voted that the three deacons, Hale, Prentice and Moor, be a committee to inform the Rev. Joseph Brown [of] the proceedings of the town respecting dismissing the old meeting-house and dedicating the new one. Adjourned to the last day of the year, at 12 o'clock, on the spot of ground where the old meeting-house stood, and adjourned the meeting into Mr. McElwain's east room, and then met there and adjourned for half an hour—for the purpose of viewing the new meeting-house.—Then met again and voted to accept the new meeting-house.

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\*His decease occurred on the first day of November.

Then, at the request of various parties, certain pews were transferred. Then voted that two pews in the gallery that were struck off to Dea. Moses Hale, viz: No. 17 and No. 8, be transferred to Lieut. John Burr; and that thereupon all matters of difficulty heretofore subsisting between the town and said Hale, and any individuals in the town concerning the new meeting-house, shall subside, upon condition that the persons who have purchased pews in said house, pay for the same in a reasonable time.

Then voted that the singers have the whole of the front gallery on the day set for the dedication of said house, and after that to have one-half the front gallery—both men's and women's seats—next the alley, taking half of each seat until the further order of the town."

Going back a little in date, we will finish up the business of disposing of the old meeting-house, and wharfing the new one. In 1792, September 5, the town voted to build a wall and wharf round the new meeting-house, by a tax. A grant of one hundred pounds was made to defray the charge thereof, which was to be worked out at the following rates, viz: "4d. an hour for man's labor, 2 1-2d. an hour for a yoke of oxen; 1 1-2d. per hour for a cart; 4 1-2d. an hour for a plow that will hold ten oxen." It was voted at the same time, to purchase "four stone drags, so called, for the use of the town." On the 24th of September, a committee was raised, and then a vote was passed, "that the aforesaid committee may plow the highest part of the Common, and dig stone thereon as they think proper, and that they may take away as much of the underpinning of the old meeting-house as they can and not injure the house; the work to be begun on the 8th day, and finished on the 27th day of October." October 29, it was voted to sell the old meeting-house, at public vendue, in lots. On the 2d of November it was voted "that those persons who purchase the old meeting-house, may take it down as soon as the new one is fit to meet in;" and the committee were authorized to sell it for what any one would give, at private sale.

At a meeting held on the 17th of December, it was voted to "give the Rev. Joseph Brown the pulpit, the ministerial pew, the pulpit stairs, the deacons seat and the canopy." The committee for reporting the conditions of sale of the old meeting-house,—viz: Dea. Samuel Prentice, Mr. Thomas Graton and Lieut. Joseph Boynton,—were empowered to sell the same; Dea. Moses Hale to be vendue master, and "the vendue to begin at one quarter of an hour past one o'clock,

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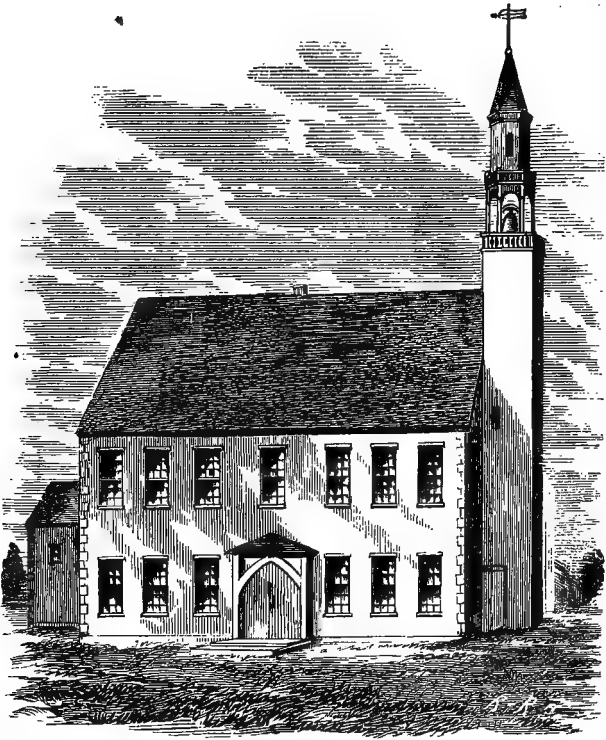
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**First Congregational Church.**

**1792.**

this afternoon." After the sale, the meeting adjourned to December 24, when at 2 o'clock it met in Mr. McElwain's east room, and voted "that the whole of the proceeds of the sale of the old meeting-house, together with the refuse stuff of the new meeting-house, and all the material belonging to the town that was sold at public vendue, be appropriated to the payment of the cost of building the new meeting-house." It was then voted to "sell the surface of the earth under the old meeting-house to the highest bidder, the purchaser to take away such a quantity as he pleased at any time before the first day of May next." It was sold to James McElwain "for 9 shillings," and he doubtless collected all the saltpetre from it that his methods allowed. Adjourned to the last day of 1792, when the "*old* meeting-house meeting" was dissolved.

A brief extract from the papers of Dr. Whiton, will appropriately close the account of the locating and dedicating the new meeting-house. "The whole affair was an illustration of the tenacity with which men will cling to a very trifling interest when their feelings become aroused. On the 24th and 25th of May the frame was raised. Then, or very soon after, one of the workmen, a Mr. French of Rindge, fell from the roof, broke several bones, was dangerously injured, but finally recovered. The house, thought at the time, an elegant and tasteful edifice, with no steeple, but porches at the ends, was dedicated the first day of the next January, the Rev. Mr. Brown, the pastor, preaching the dedication sermon. I well remember my boyish impressions, that the painting and ornamental work of the pulpit, and of the old-fashioned appendage to it, the *canopy*, over the head of the minister, could not fall much short of the glory of Solomon's Temple." The author well remembers the interior of that ancient house as it appeared to his half-bewildered eyes, on the first Sabbath of May, 1843, when he walked up the middle aisle, and cork-screwed his way up the pulpit stairs. Nothing but the solemnity of the occasion could have repressed the smile that such architecture, painting and ornamentation was fitted to excite!

The house was now erected and dedicated. It was a well-built house, made of the best materials, and large enough to seat about six hundred people, old and young. A few items of business more will complete the record. They are as follows:

1793, March 6, "*Voted* and directed the meeting-house committee to pur-

chase hooks and staples to hook down all the meeting-house windows that have weights to them. Also directed the said committee to line the inside of the banisters [balusters] of the pulpit with boards and paint the outside green." Adjourned to the first Monday in April, and then *Voted* "that the committee for building the meeting-house, be requested to lay before the town at the May meeting, a statement of the sums they have received by the sale of the pews; also by a sum raised by the sale of the old meeting-house and ground under said old house; and also by the sale of all the refuse stuff which was left of the new meeting-house; and also by way of a tax, and any other way by which they have received money. And also that said committee be requested to lay before the town a statement of what has been expended in the building of said house."

"After several meetings and adjournments, the town met on the 6th of January, 1794, and directed the meeting-house committee to mend or make the gallery doors according to their direction."

The meeting was then adjourned to March 3; then to April 7; then to May 5; then to May 28, when Mr. Amos Heywood was chosen Moderator "pro-temporary;" then to September 3, when it was voted that the Selectmen give the meeting-house committee orders to draw nine pounds out of the town treasury, to enable them to make a final settlement with the town, they to be accountable to the town for the same at their settlement. Then adjourned to November 3, and then to November 21, 1794, when the town voted and dissolved the "meeting-house meeting."

At a meeting of the town on the 21st of November, 1794, "called in part, for the purpose of settling with the meeting-house committee, *Voted* and accepted of the meeting-house committee account, which is as follows:

#### COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| "Cost of the Meeting House, | £889, 10s., 9d.               |
| Committee Service,          | £57, 14s., 6d.—£947, 5s., 3d. |
| Received of pew money,      | £766, 4, 0.                   |
| Old Meeting House,          | £28, 2, 1.                    |
| Refuse Stuff,               | £4, 10, 7.                    |
| Tax,                        | * £150, 0, 0.—£948, 16, 8.    |

The above account is the report of the committee appointed to build the meeting-house.

THOS. GRATON, } *Committee for build-*  
BENJAMIN HALL, } *ing said house."*

SAMUEL PRENTICE, *Moderator.*

A true copy, Attest,

MOSES HALE, *Town Clerk."*

To this account may properly be appended the following item from the Records, showing as it does the idiosyncrasy of an individual, and



proving the general unison of religious sentiment in the town up to this time. "Jeremiah Stuart's part of the tax for building a meeting-house was abated." He claimed to be a Quaker.

#### SECTION 5.—THE MINISTER'S SALARY.—DEVOTIONAL MUSIC.

A few incidents claim insertion here before we come to the great contest which resulted in the dismissal of the minister, the Rev. Mr. Brown.

In 1794, it was voted in town meeting, "to make an addition of thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence to the Rev. Mr. Joseph Brown's salary yearly so long as he carries on the work of the gospel ministry in this church and congregation."

There was a natural desire for a new and better collection of devotional poetry, to be used in public worship. The matter was brought up in a meeting held on the 3d of September; but it was passed over. But on the 21st of November, the subject came up again, when it was "voted to desire the church to introduce Dr. Watts' version of the Psalms and Hymns, to be sung in the congregation."

In 1796, May 5, "Voted to have a bass-viol used in the meeting-house on Sundays, in aid to the performance of music in the time of divine service."

These last two votes denoted a revolution in the public taste. The old Hymns were forced to give way to the more elegant and poetic verse of the sainted Watts, and the pitch-pipe was superseded by viols where an organ could not be obtained. Each change cost a struggle, and left hard feelings in the breasts of many. The violent agitation in regard to the location of the new meeting-house, the excitement attendant upon the introduction of the new Psalm and Hymn Book, and the bass-viol, followed by the long and bitter contention which led to the dismissal of Mr. Brown, doubtless alienated many, some of whom thereafter neglected public worship, while others were prepared to enter into new religious societies which, in a few years, came into existence.

#### SECTION 6.—THE TOWN'S QUARREL WITH MR. BROWN.

According to Dr. Whiton, dissatisfaction with Mr. Brown began to be felt and expressed in the year 1796, though nothing in relation to the matter is found on the Records prior to 1798. In the words of the Dr.: "prior to 1796, the connection of Mr. Brown with the people as town's minister, had been attended with peace and harmony. At this

time some dissatisfaction arose, increased, and led to a mutual Ecclesiastical Council in October, composed of the churches in Lexington, Sudbury, Lunenburg, Berlin, and the first church in Worcester, before which body his opponents proposed some charges against him ; not however with an expectation of effecting his dismissal, but of obtaining some concessions. Acquitting Mr. Brown of any serious delinquency, the Council yet declared him open in some instances to the imputation of imprudence ; but advised the parties to conciliation ; and the result was accepted by both parties."

"The calm that succeeded," says Dr. Whiton, "was of short duration ; busy tongues were not easily restrained ; the parties did not cease from talking over past difficulties ; feelings became again chafed in 1798 ; indeed, from the beginning of 1797 to 1800, the controversy between Mr. Brown and his people, formed the chief topic of conversation in all Winchendon circles. A majority of the town became arrayed against the minister, while a small majority of the church declared themselves in his favor." The causes of dissatisfaction are mostly obscured or lost in the lapse of time. The alleged causes were mainly such as grow out of a hasty temper and imprudent speech. Perhaps there was some feeling that the minister was not thoroughly sound in doctrine, as it is said by aged persons that he belonged to the class of Congregational ministers who were termed Arminian in those days. Tradition moreover gives a more romantic version of the story. It is said that a prominent actor in the scenes, had been at one time attentive to a daughter of the minister ; but that finding one possessed of greater charms, in his estimation, in the person of a daughter of a leading member of the parish, he deserted the one for the other. This is the egg, according to the traditional gossip of old times, which in after years, was hatched, and became the source of alienation, and finally involved the whole town in a violent quarrel. It is the old story of "*spretæ injuria formæ*," and is so natural that it may possibly contain some grains of fact.

But whatever was the occasion or cause of the difficulty, it went forward to its results with unabated violence. The first entry on the Records, bearing on the subject, is found under date of June 27, 1798, when we find an article in the warrant, in the words following : "to see if the town will grant any sum of money, to defray the cost, or any part thereof, that may arise in consequence of any proper and suitable

measures that may be taken in order to bring about a settlement of the unhappy difficulties which are subsisting among us." We have no record of what was done by the parties during the ensuing nine months, but in March, 1799, at the annual meeting on the 4th of the month, the "sense of the town" was taken on the following article in the warrant: "whether in their opinion, the Reverend Joseph Brown's usefulness as a teacher of piety, religion and morality, be at an end in this place or not?" by polling the house, and sixty-four voted, that in their opinion, the Rev. Joseph Brown's usefulness in this place was at an end, and forty voted on the contrary side. "Then the town voted to choose a committee of five persons to wait on the Rev. Joseph Brown, and inform him of the vote, and confer with him on the subject; and Doctor Israel Whiton, Deacon Samuel Prentice, Mr. Ezra Hyde, Capt. David Rice, and Mr. John Perley, were chosen."

We have no report from this committee of their interview with Mr. Brown; but that it was not satisfactory to them or the town, may be inferred from the following action relative to the subject in hand. At a meeting held on the 1st of April, 1799, there was an article in the warrant as follows:

"To see if the town will vote for the dismissal of the Rev. Joseph Brown from the work of the gospel ministry in this place from this time henceforth, forever. Upon a decision, by polling, 48 voted for the dismissal of the Rev. Joseph Brown, and thirty-four on the contrary side. Chose a committee of the town to act in concert with the church respecting the dismissal of Mr. Brown." On the 6th of May the town voted the usual salary to the minister, and then voted that they "would not hire the Rev. Joseph Brown any longer after the 18th day of March next as their minister." The Selectmen to furnish him with a copy of the vote. "Then the mind of the town was taken upon an article expressed as follows, namely, to see if the town will express their minds with regard to joining with the church in requesting a council consisting of neighbour churches, to bring about a dismissal of the Rev. Joseph Brown from his pastoral relation to this church and people in a regular way, and to look into his character agreeable to his wish, as expressed in a paper he sent to the town dated March 4, 1799. Then the town instructed said committee to furnish Mr. Brown with a copy of the vote concerning a council, which vote, after being read passed in the affirmative."

The following action on the 29th of May evinces the regard which the fathers of the town had for ecclesiastical order.

"Whereas doubts have arisen in the minds of many persons respecting the

intentions of the town in voting not to hire the Rev. Joseph Brown as their minister after the 18th day of March next, and that the town will concur with the church in calling in an ecclesiastical council for his dismissal from the church and people in this place, therefore voted that it is the sense of this town, that an ecclesiastical council is the proper authority to order into and depose a minister from his office, and that the town, by voting to concur with the church in calling a council, intended a recognition of ecclesiastical order and regularity."

The town then voted that in case a ministerial council could be obtained on reasonable terms, for Mr. Brown's dismissal, that the town would concur with the aggrieved brethren of the church in calling a council of neighboring churches for the same purpose. They then chose five persons, viz: the Selectmen for the time being, a committee "to transact and negotiate with the church, or the aggrieved brethren of the church, as the case may be in all necessary matters relative to said council."

At a preceding meeting, held on the 6th of May, the town took action as follows, according to the Records.

"The following was voted at a legal town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, as reasons for giving it as their opinion that the Rev. Mr. Brown's usefulness is at an end in this place, viz: Whereas the Rev. Mr. Brown, in an address to the town on the fourteenth day of March, expressed a desire that the town would give some reasons for their opinion that his usefulness as a preacher of the gospel was at an end in this place, they offer the following, viz: 1st, That by his unexemplary and indiscreet behavior both in his conduct and conversation, he has created distrust, and destroyed that confidence which is so essential for a preacher of the gospel to retain in order to give efficacy to his ministerial labor, and so necessary for a people to have in one whom they are to consider as their spiritual guide, a messenger of truth, and a director in the important matters of religion. 2dly, His indulging himself in the injurious and unchristian practice of slander, and his evident disregard for the truth, tending to derogate from the dignity of his sacred office, and consequently, to lessen that reverential respect due to religion, especially in the tender minds of the rising generation. 3dly, That he does not practise those things which make for peace, but on the contrary, by practising fraud and deception, keeps up disturbances in the church, especially in his official conduct in the late case of Samuel Crosby, Esq., all of which operate to the injury and disturbance of the town, consequently are deemed sufficient reasons to justify them in giving their opinion that his usefulness as a teacher of





HON. ARTEMAS HALE

piety, religion and morality is at an end in this place ; and the town are ready, if required, to substantiate the foregoing reasons, by advertng to particulars, and making proof thereof. Voted that the committee should furnish Mr. Brown with a copy of the foregoing."

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

According to the proposals in the proceedings of the town, cited above, a council was held in September. No copy of the result of this body is to be found in the Records, or in the papers in the custody of the town clerk. If the Church Records ever contained a copy, it was carried away or destroyed by Mr. Brown. The following is taken word for word, from a copy of the result, in the handwriting of Dr. Payson, of Rindge, N. H. It was kindly furnished by the Hon. Artemas Hale, of Bridgewater, a native of Winchendon, and son of Dea. Moses Hale. It was found among his venerable father's papers, and is here given at length. As the Council was called at the instance of the town, and by its concurrence with the church, it finds its appropriate place in this connection. The original has been deposited with the town clerk for preservation.

"At an Ecclesiastical Council convened at Winchendon, pursuant to letters missive from the Pastor and church in said town, on Tuesday, September 3d, 1799, to judge of the expediency or in expediency of the Rev. Mr. Brown's dismission from the pastoral office in this place, and also to attend to certain difficulties existing in the church ; were present from the churches in East Sudbury, Billerica, Rindge, Athol and Weston, the following Pastors and Delegates, viz :

| Reverend Messrs.  | Delegates.              |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Josiah Bridge,    | { Dea. Samuel Griffin,  |
| Henry Cummings,   | { Robert Cutting.       |
| Seth Payson,      | { Capt. John Kidder.    |
| Joseph Estabrook, | { Dea. Francis Powers,  |
| Samuel Kendall,   | { Col. William Gardner. |
|                   | { Capt. John Oliver,    |
|                   | { Mr. John Fairbanks.   |
|                   | { Mr. Nathan Hagar,     |
|                   | { Mr. Elisha Stratton.  |

At the desire of the parties, formed into a Council by choosing the Rev. Mr. Bridge, moderator, and Rev. Mr. Payson, scribe. Adjourned to the meeting-house, and having addressed the throne of grace, at the request of the par-

ties, voted unanimously that the Rev. Mr. Brown, with his adherents, and those of the church and town in opposition, be heard by such agent or agents as they shall choose to employ, they being under the direction and control of the Council. After various and unexpected objections and delays, arising from an unhappy dispute between the parties, relative to the latitude in which they had agreed to submit matters to the Council, each party consented to refer the question to their judgment, who thereupon proceeded to take up their grievances upon the largest scale, apprehending that to be most consonant to the spirit of the letters missive.

After repeated adjournments from day to day, until Saturday noon, the Council attended to all the statements and evidences made and exhibited to them by the parties, and then adjourned until Monday morning; then met according to adjournment, and came to the following result, viz :

1st. As to the first article, we would observe with deep regret and sorrow, we are constrained by a due regard to truth and justice, to say, after the full exercise of Christian candor, and making all allowances for human frailty, that the Rev. Mr. Brown has in several instances, discovered great want of prudence, manifested great precipitancy, and spoken unadvisedly with his lips.

2d. With respect to the second article of charge, as it included circumstances which would require a lengthy discussion, and might create difficulties in a neighboring church, the parties, by recommendation of Council, agreed to pass by consideration of this article.

3d. Under the third article, it appears to this Council, that the Rev. Mr. Brown was secretly active to bring forward a civil prosecution against Samuel Crosby, Esq., in a matter wherein we have no reason to believe said Crosby to be guilty as reports had represented; of which conduct we cannot but express our high disapprobation. With respect to the other particular under this head, it appears to this Council that they were either taken up in the former result, or were not so clearly supported as to justify a censure.

4ly. As to the fourth general charge, we esteem it much too high, and freely say, that in our opinion, it is not supported. So far as the particulars under it were considered and resulted upon by a former Council, we find no occasion to depart from their decision. As to some other particulars, we find it hard to reconcile Mr. Brown's recollections one with another, but do not find ourselves warranted from the evidence exhibited to us, to fix on him a censure. We are convinced that in most, if not all the particulars, Mr. Brown's declarations might be reconciled with a regard to truth, without implicating any of the witnesses.

5ly. In respect to the former grant of the fifth general charge relative to a vote of amnesty in the church, we refer to the result of the former Council.



In relation to the acceptance of said result, it appears to this Council, that Mr. Brown, at the first church meeting after the sitting of the Council, instead of representing the result as absurd and ridiculous, as stated in the charge, did manifest a readiness to accept it. Afterwards, when the aggrieved hesitated, desired time to consider, and requested Mr. Brown to discuss and explain it, he appears to have expressed himself in such a manner as tended greatly to irritate the feelings, and excite the resentment of the aggrieved, and accompanied those irritating expressions with a countenance and gesture which served to embitter his enemies, and alienate some of his friends; which, though not a rejection of the result, we consider as not savoring of that pacific and humble temper it recommends to the parties.

6ly. In relation to the last general charge, we find it to be a fact, judging by the vote of the town, that the majority are alienated from Mr. Brown, although it does not appear to us that it is owing to the cause assigned in this article of charge.

The above charges are the general reasons alleged by the aggrieved brethren, and that part of the town which has connected itself with them, why the pastoral relation of the Rev. Joseph Brown to this people should be dissolved. To these reasons; a majority of the church, who still adhere to Mr. Brown, have opposed a number of weighty reasons. We have attended to them with care, and a disposition to admit their proper influence in determining our minds; but we think they will not justify our resulting that Mr. Brown shall hold his office among this people, or any part of them, unless reconciliation should be effected.

In attending to the unhappy controversy in this place, we have had painful evidences of a strong bias in human nature to err on the uncharitable side, and to censure failings with unchristian severity, especially when the passions are irritated with real or supposed injuries. That we may not fall under the imputation of such a bias, we have made all candid and charitable allowances for human frailties and infirmities, in forming a result for the parties in this town; and have not magnified imprudences on either side into great crimes, nor made any one a great offender for every unadvised word which has escaped him in the warmth of controversy, or under the impressions of designed or apprehended provocations. Had such allowances been made by the contending parties, in this town, in the management of these disputes, we are persuaded that this controversy would never have arisen to its present height, nor have plunged them into their present embarrassments. Could the parties be persuaded to consent, it would afford this Council great pleasure and satisfaction, if a general amnesty, founded on acts of mutual forgiveness and oblivion might terminate their present difficulties, and restore peace among them.

This we would earnestly recommend to the parties, as the best way to heal their difficulties, and free their minds from unfriendly animosities towards each other. But if an accommodation cannot take place on this ground, within one month, we judge it advisable, under the existing circumstances, that Mr. Brown's pastoral relation to this church and people be dissolved. And whereas, we are expressly desired, in the letters missive, on the supposition, in our judgment, that his dismissal is expedient, to direct and assist as to the mode of effecting it, our advice is, that previously to its taking place, it be submitted to a reference, what compensation of a pecuniary nature he shall have for relinquishing his contract, unless he and his people can come into an agreement between themselves respecting the matter. If either party refuse thus to submit their pecuniary concerns, on the supposition they cannot agree between themselves; or if either party neglect actually to make choice of referees, and notify such choice to the other party, for more than three months, it ought, in our opinion, to be considered as a departure from the spirit and design of this result. This advice to refer pecuniary considerations, implies what we do not scruple to declare, that though Mr. Brown has been chargeable with some imprudences and unjustifiable conduct, especially in the late days of trial and temptation, yet he has not, in our opinion, forfeited his ministerial character. We can, therefore, in case of his dismissal from this church, sincerely recommend him to any other who may wish to employ him as a minister. We add that we feel disposed to embrace Mr. Brown's opponents, as well as himself, in the arms of christian candor, and to put as favorable a construction as possible, upon any improprieties in words or actions, which may be justly imputed to them; but impressed with the idea that an accusation for evil report against an Elder is not to be received but at the mouth of two or three witnesses, we recommend it to them seriously to consider whether they have not, in some instances, suffered themselves to be too much exasperated by the report of a single witness, contrary to the express directions of the Gospel. It is recommended that this result be accepted by all parties, and by each considered as christian satisfaction from the other in every instance wherein offence has been given.

In respect to the complaint of Goodrich and Smith against the church in this place, that they for very insufficient reasons, dismissed a petition for inquiring into the conduct of Samuel Crosby, Esq., respecting certain depositions taken by said Crosby, in a case pending between Brown and Godfrey or Corey, it is our opinion that the church in that instance, was not reprehensible, but had full right, according to their discretion, to dismiss said petition in manner and form as alleged.

In respect to the proceedings of the church against Abel Wilder, upon the

complaint of Samuel Crosby, Esq., it is our opinion, notwithstanding the notoriety of the fault charged against said Wilder, that the first and second steps should have been taken before the complaint could have been regularly brought into the church, and that the church ought not to have admitted it in opposition to the plea that the previous steps had not been taken. Although the fault is represented as notorious, we conceive that the satisfaction might have been equally notorious, if given upon private application, or in consequence of either the first or second steps. These, in our opinion, ought to have been taken. We therefore advise the church to rescind their vote of suspension passed against said Wilder, and dismiss the complaint brought against him. We also recommend it to said Crosby and Wilder to accept this result as a final result of the dispute between them.

Having thus resulted on the several general articles brought before us, and advised the parties, we now most earnestly desire and entreat them to proceed with moderation and candor in everything yet to be transacted by them, remembering that soft words turn away wrath, and that mutual condescension and forbearance are necessary to the restoration of peace and harmony in this place. Hoping that our patient hearing and attending to all matters of dispute, will have a suitable influence on the temper and conduct of this people, we commend all persons and parties to God, and the word of his grace, earnestly praying that he would bless them with that peace which passeth all understanding, and bring them again to know how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Voted unanimously. •

A true copy, Attest,

SETH PAYSON, *Scribe.*"

Such was the Result of Council, a model for candor, impartiality and precision. It reached the only possible solution of the difficulties then existing, in the dismissal of Mr. Brown, while it maintained his ministerial character, and his right to a pecuniary consideration in consequence of yielding his claim on the town for salary in the future. The aim was probably, to effect his dismissal, and to damage his reputation to such a degree, that his claim for compensation would be invalid. In this last regard, the minister gained a substantial victory in the Council. But the contest was not ended. The matter of compensation, according to the advice of the Council, was submitted to referees; and there the point was to get clear of all damages, or reduce them to a minimum. To find the sequel, we must refer again to the town Records. On the 30th of September, 1799, a town meeting was held,

which "heard the Result of the Ecclesiastical meeting read." This meeting was adjourned to October 11, when after hearing the Result again, and maturely considering the same, it was voted, "to comply with the advice given in said Result, in referring pecuniary concerns to referees mutually chosen between the Rev. Mr. Brown on the one part, and the town, or their committee, on the other part, in case they cannot agree between themselves respecting the matter." The Selectmen were directed "to negotiate and transact all necessary matters with Mr. Brown respecting a reference, and settling pecuniary matters." The committee attended to their duties without delay, and at the same meeting made a report to the town in writing as follows :

" Pursuant to our being appointed a committee to negotiate matters with the Rev. Joseph Brown, we attended the service, and made an attempt to settle pecuniary matters, but did not succeed. We then attempted to choose referees, and each party nominated three persons. The committee nominated Daniel Biglo [Bigelow] Esq., of Petersham, Esq. Hale, of Brookfield, and Esq. Heywood, of Worcester. Then Mr. Brown nominated Major Bridge, of Lexington, Col. Wright, of Westford, and Esq. Wales, of Dorchester. Mr. Brown offered to let the committee choose either of them for a chairman. Then the committee proposed to take the matter under consideration, and withdrew."

SAMUEL CROSBY,  
EZRA HIDE,  
DESIRE TOLMAN,  
BENJAMIN HUBBARD.

Another meeting was held on the 29th of November, when the Selectmen as a committee were empowered "to enter into arbitration bonds in behalf of the town, and submit matters relating to Mr. Brown, to arbitrators or referees." A committee—the Selectmen—to wait on Rev. Joseph Brown, "to see if he will take a dismission in form from the town as their minister." A committee was chosen to supply the pulpit after the 10th of December ; viz : Doct. Israel Whiton, Dea. Samuel Prentice and Samuel Crosby. On the 1st of December it was voted that the same committee be authorized "in behalf of the town, to sign a rule of submission which was drawn up by Daniel Biglow, Esq., and was read in town meeting previous to the passing said vote. Also, voted that said committee acknowledge said vote before a Justice of the Peace, agreeable to an Act of the General Court, in which said rule is prescribed ; and then the meeting was adjourned for one hour for the

purpose of signing and acknowledging said rule, which was done accordingly; and at the end of the hour, the town met again according to adjournment, and after being informed that pecuniary concerns were submitted to referees, viz: to Zaccheus Wright, of Westford, Josiah Goddard, of Athol, and John Bridge, Esqrs.; then the town passed the following vote, viz: "Whereas the town have complied with the conditions of Mr. Brown's dismissal on their part, they consider his dismissal as now effected, and that they do not consider themselves as holden to pay him any more salary from this time, and request him to desist from preaching, for the future, in this town."

In regard to this reference, Dr. Whiton remarks: "that there was a great deal of excitement. The town attempted to show that Mr. Brown had had so much to do in creating the difficulty as not to be entitled to pecuniary damages; numerous witnesses were called in support of charges against him; crowds were collected to hear the trial in the meeting-house. The town employed as their advocate, Hon. Levi Lincoln, soon afterwards Attorney General of the United States; Mr. Brown had Hon. Timothy Bigelow, of Groton; both advocates of the first eminence. The Referees—one of them however dissenting—gave Mr. Brown almost one thousand dollars, and costs; an award with which the town, however reluctant, was obliged to comply."

The town, as we have seen, thought its obligation to pay Mr. Brown's salary ceased after the first of December. They had agreed to abide by the decision of the referees, and had given bonds to that effect, and therefore now claimed the pulpit as under their control. It would seem however, that the other party had not arrived at the same conclusion. A town meeting was held on the 30th of December, when it was voted "to shut up and fasten the meeting-house." The committee chosen to do this business, were Col. Boynton, Capt. Graton, Col. Woodbury, Lieut. Adams, Lieut. Raymond, Mr. Phineas Whitney, and Mr. Geo. Coffin. This committee were instructed not to admit "any other person into the pulpit on the Sabbath, excepting the preacher, or preachers employed by order of the town, or their committee." The marks of this committee's work are still to be seen in the old window sashes of the meeting-house now in one of the shops of Mr. Baxter D. Whitney. What was the necessity for this action, is not definitely known; but it is quite possible that Mr. Brown thought the town had not complied with the conditions of the reference until he had received

his dues. However that may be, it is pretty certain that Mr. Brown could not force his way to the pulpit through such a *cordon* of military officers as were set to guard the entrances to the sanctuary. A few items more from the records, will close the narrative of this unhappy controversy. On the 20th of January, 1800, the town voted a "sum of money to pay the cost of the late reference, and allowed Flavel Crosby's charge for two journeys to Worcester, and, including cash paid Judge Lincoln and Mr. Bangs, \$250."

Take also in this connection, the following significant move. One article in the warrant for the annual meeting, March 3, 1800, was "to see what instructions the town will give the assessors respecting abating the rates of those persons who are of the denomination of Baptists or Methodists, respecting all charges on account of our late Minister in town." This matter was left with the Assessors.

On the 7th of May, the town granted "the sum of eight hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty-eight cents, for the purpose of discharging the demand that Rev. Joseph Brown has against the the town;" and on the 28th, a vote was passed, granting "to witnesses at the referees, and summoning them, \$26,78." At the same meeting, the question was raised in respect to "petitioning the General Court to grant a new hearing in the action, 'Joseph Brown, clerk, against the inhabitants of the town of Winchendon.'" The motion was passed over. However reluctant to pay, the town did not think it best to prolong the contest. Their delay however laid them open to an action in law, which led to the following vote in town meeting, November 3, 1800. "Voted that the money be collected immediately for the purpose of repaying the money that was borrowed to discharge the execution, "Brown against the Inhabitants of Winchendon." After all these details, it is pleasant to read the following words, from one whose boyhood was familiar with the whole transaction. Dr. Whiton says: "Soon afterwards these agitations, which had made Winchendon like a boiling caldron, began to subside. Mr. Brown, a year or two after his dismissal, removed from town, supplied for a few years the desk at Guilford, Vermont, and died at Windsor, at the house of a son-in-law, in 1810."

#### THE TOWN-PARISH SINCE 1800.

Perhaps it may be as well to finish up the history of the town as a parish, before laying the subject aside. It continued to act in that

capacity throughout the ministry of Mr. Pillsberry\* and a few years into that of his successor, Mr. Clark, when its functions in that line terminated.

On the 2d of February, 1801, the town voted to "take some measures respecting agreeing with Mr. Levi Pillsbury as to the time of his settling among us as a publick teacher of piety, morality and religion." In the next place, under another article, it was voted to make choice of Mr. Levi Pillsbury as their "publick teacher of piety, morality and religion." They voted to offer him \$400 as salary annually, and every year, including rents of ministerial lands, as long as said town and said Mr. Pillsbury shall agree. A committee was chosen to attend to the business, viz: Dr. Israel Whiton, Amos Heywood, Lt. Paul Raymond, Col. Jacob B. Woodbury and Col. Paul Boynton.

This committee reported on the 9th of March, and from the tenor of their report it is clear that the candidate would not agree to settle on their proposal as to time—"as long as they—shall agree;" because, after hearing the report, it was voted not to accept it. Then the last clause of the report was erased. After the "erasurement," the report was accepted. Probably the committee agreed with Mr. Pillsbury, in inserting other words, given below, and that the town rejected them. Then the committee were directed to see Mr. Pillsbury "to see if he will accept the same; that is, their terms—and if he will not, to agree with him, if they can, and report to the town." By the proceedings at the next meeting, March 16, it appears that the town agreed to Mr. Pillsbury's terms. "Voted to give Mr. Levi Pillsbury 400 dollars for his annual salary so long as he shall continue to be our public teacher of piety, religion and morality, the said Mr. Pillsbury relinquishing all claims to ministerial lands and rents belonging to said town."

Mr. Pillsbury was ordained on the 24th day of June, in preparation for which ceremony, the town made arrangements by the choice of appropriate committees. The Selectmen were to make provision for the ordaining Council, and a committee of six were to "superintend the orders of the day of ordination." These were Messrs. Thomas Graton, Benjamin Wilder, Benjamin Hubbard, Mason Spooner, Ephraim Murdock and Abel Jones. One hundred dollars were granted for the necessary

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\**Pillsberry* was his way of spelling his name, but in deference to the wishes of some of his descendants, it will be given hereafter as *Pillsbury*, according to their mode.

charges of the ordination; and then the two committees were directed "jointly to examine the meeting-house before the ordination, to see if it is sufficient for the ordination day."

1802, January 5. The town voted "to paint the meeting-house, next season, a bright stone color."

1803, April 4. It was voted "to purchase a Great Bible for the pulpit." Rev. Mr. Pillsbury, with Dea. Hale and Esq. Crosby were the committee to purchase.

November 21. The town voted to pass over an article in the warrant about a petition of "some inhabitants of the town, to the General Court, for incorporation as a Baptist Society." A wise conclusion not to meddle.

1804, March 5. Nathaniel Holman, Paul Raymond and Thomas Greenwood were chosen to "lay out 50 dollars" for a singing-school.

1806, November 3. Voted to "shorten the intermission on Sundays to one hour thro' the year."

#### SECTION 7.—THE MINISTER'S POLITICS.

The town was strongly federal in its political views and party connections, the candidate of the federal party for the office of Governor sometimes receiving every vote, and always a large majority. Mr. Pillsbury was a republican, which term in those days denoted a supporter of Mr. Jefferson and his principles. This difference of opinion led to some alienation between the minister and his people, and an attempt was made in 1807, to bring about a dissolution of the pastoral relation. At a meeting on the 4th of May, a committee was chosen "to converse with the Rev. Levi Pillsbury, to come into some method in order for an accommodation concerning difficulties that have arisen between him and the inhabitants of the town." Messrs. Hananiah Whitney, Paul Raymond, J. B. Woodbury, Thomas Graton and Desire Tolman, were the committee. Then the following motion was put and accepted, as the vote is recorded; there being 33 yeas, and 28 nays.

"Lamenting the unhappy difficulties that have arisen in this town respecting the utility of retaining the Rev. Levi Pillsbury in this place, as a teacher of piety, religion and morality, but believing that they are of such a nature that it will be for the interest of each party to have a separation of the ministerial relation take place upon ecclesiastical principles, without any inquiry



into character, 'tis moved and seconded that the committee chosen to talk with him, wait on him and see on what terms he will dissolve said ministerial relation, and report his answer at the adjournment of this meeting."

At a subsequent meeting on the 15th of June, Mr. Pillsbury's written answer was sent in and read in town meeting. This is not on record. There was another meeting on the 29th of June, when the question was

"To take the sense of the inhabitants of the town, whether in their opinion, the Rev. Levi Pillsbury's usefulness as a teacher of piety, religion and morality, be at an end in this place or not, and whether they are willing to grant him any farther support as a teacher thereof; and to see if the town will choose a committee to use all legal means to bring about a separation between the Rev. Levi Pillsbury and the town."

The article was divided, and the town voted that their minister's usefulness was not at an end, by a vote of 51 to 44. It was then voted to grant Mr. Pillsbury further support, and the proposition for a committee was passed over. This matter rested for several years, the majority not thinking it profitable to have another quarrel with their settled minister.

In 1810, a sum of money was granted for the support of a singing school, any inhabitant of the town being free to attend. In 1811, the Selectmen were authorized to "repair the meeting-house as they think best."

In 1814, March 7, at the annual town meeting, the feelings of a portion of the town in regard to the politics of the minister, were again manifested. For though no cause of displeasure was expressed, it is well known that a difference of sentiment on public questions was at the bottom of the movement. Mr. Pillsbury sustained the administration in declaring war against Great Britain, while a large majority of the voters supported Gov. Caleb Strong in his strenuous opposition to the policy of the general government. There was an article in the warrant to see "whether any alteration can be made which will render the preaching of the Gospel in this town more useful." The action taken, while it avoided a struggle with the minister, was probably considered as an implied censure of his course, while it conveyed a wholesome piece of advice to his opponents. It was as follows:

"Voted as the sense of this town, that the most effectual means of making the preaching of the gospel useful in this place, will be for each individual to

attend more strictly to the duties it enjoins, to follow the precepts it contains, and by using that Christian charity inculcated thereby, may teach its enemies that however Christians may disagree in minor subjects, yet as brethren of the same family, they can dwell together in unity. Voted that it be recommended to the preacher to abstain from disseminating from the pulpit those principles which are not contained in the gospel."

There was no pretense that Mr. Pillsbury inculcated principles contrary to the gospel, for he was eminently sound in the Orthodox faith. By "those principles which are not contained in the gospel," the town probably meant the political sentiments of Messrs. Jefferson, Madison and others of that school of politicians. After this the minister was not molested by any movement of the same kind till his decease. The town respected him, and cheerfully paid his annual salary.

May 2, "Voted and granted \$15 for the purpose of purchasing singing books for the use of the singers."

1815, March 6. "Granted \$40 for the use of singing, and exempt the Methodists from paying their part." Probably they had a school of their own in the northwest part of the town.

#### SECTION 7.—THE STEEPLE AND BELL.

It was voted at a meeting held on the 11th of September, "to make the ground where the body seats are on the lower floor in the meeting-house, into pews for the purpose of building a tower." By this it will be understood that a portion of the central part of the meeting-house had never been filled with pews.

A committee was raised at this meeting, who reported on the 7th of November as follows :

"The committee chosen by the town to take into consideration the expediency of selling any ground in the meeting-house, and also the expediency of building a tower, cupola, or steeple, with receiving such proposals as may be made for building the same, report, that having attended to an examination of the meeting-house, they are of opinion that there may be six pews on the lower floor, and have the front seats entire, as appears by the plan ; and are of opinion that they will fetch six hundred dollars when built. They are also of opinion that there may be four pews built in each side gallery, and have all the seats as far north as the stairway, and the first seat north of that, as appears by the plan, which will probably fetch two hundred dollars when finished. And they are of opinion that the expense of building the pews will

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amount to one hundred dollars, leaving to be disposed of by the town, the sum of seven hundred dollars. They farther report that they have received sundry proposals for erecting a tower, cupola or steeple, agreeable to the annexed plan. One is, that it may be built for seven hundred dollars; and another, that it may be built for the pew ground as is laid out in the annexed plans, on condition that they may build the pews this fall, and complete the tower, cupola or steeple the next season. They therefore report that it is expedient to sell the pew ground in the annexed plans, and erect a tower and cupola, or steeple, with the proceeds thereof. They are much induced to this from the very liberal subscription which is made by sundry inhabitants for a bell which is herewith submitted.

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| EPHRAIM MURDOCK, | JOSEPH WYMAN,      |
| ISAAC MORSE,     | MOSES HALE, JR.,   |
| BENJ. ADAMS,     | ISRAEL WHITCOMB,   |
| SAM'L NOYES,     | <i>Committee."</i> |

The above plan was adopted by the town, and carried into effect. Later in the season a committee was appointed, consisting of Lt. Paul Raymond, Mr. Ephraim Murdock and Lt. Isaac Morse, to see to the repairing of the meeting-house; and on the 4th of November a meeting was held, when, under the articles to see what measures the town will take respecting the acceptance of the bell and belfry, and to see if the town will choose a committee to convey the pews recently built to Capt. Phinehas Whitney, the following proceedings took place.

"To the inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, in town meeting assembled :

At a meeting of the subscribers for the purchase of a church bell, designed for the use of the Congregational Society in said Winchendon, held in Winchendon, in October, 1816, Voted to choose a committee to present the bell, in behalf of the proprietors, to the town of Winchendon, on the conditions which will appear in the representations to the town hereunder written. Chose Horatio Gates Newcomb, Ephraim Murdock, and Isaac Morse, a committee for the aforesaid purpose.

HORATIO G. NEWCOMB, *Clerk."*

The conditions are given in the following paper, with a list of the names of subscribers.

"Certain individuals, inhabitants of the town of Winchendon, whose names are hereunto annexed, beg leave respectfully to represent to the town, by their committee, that having purchased a church bell by subscription, suitable for, and to be used at the Congregational meeting-house in said town, are desirous

to present the same to said town, for their use and benefit, on the following conditions: that the town accept the same, keep it in good and sufficient repair, cause it to be rung and tolled at the usual and customary times, and in a suitable and devout manner; and that they will cause, by their vote, this representation of the said subscribers, by their committee, together with the names of the subscribers who have purchased by their liberality, the said Church bell, with the sum that each individual has given therefor, to be entered and enrolled on the records of the said town, that the same may stand as a perpetual monument and testimony of the deed,—that it may be known from view of the records of the town, at whose expense, and in what manner the Church bell of Winchendon was obtained.

The following are the names of the persons who by subscription, purchased and hung the church bell of this town, and the sum annexed to each name is the amount given by the subscriber therefor.

## NAMES.

|                            |         |                        |      |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------------|------|
| Capt. Phinehas Whitney,    | \$51 00 | Mr. Jacob Woodberry,   | 2 00 |
| Col. Benj. Adams,          | 50 00   | “ Luke Wilder,         | 2 00 |
| Dr. Israel Whiton,         | 50 00   | “ John Flint, 2d,      | 1 00 |
| Lieut. Isaac Morse,        | 25 00   | “ Jacob Wales, Jr.,    | 3 00 |
| Mr. Ephraim Murdock,       | 20 00   | “ Charles Tolman,      | 2 50 |
| Mr. Amasa Whitney,         | 20 00   | “ Samuel Steel,        | 2 75 |
| Mr. Joseph Jewett,         | 20 00   | “ Stephen Beals,       | 1 00 |
| Rev. Levi Pillsbury,       | 12 00   | Capt. Joseph Robbins,  | 2 00 |
| Mr. Joseph Wyman,          | 7 00    | Mr. John Brooks,       | 2 00 |
| Horatio G. Newcomb, Esq.,  | 6 00    | Capt. Benj. Wilder,    | 3 00 |
| Moses Hale, Jr., Esq.,     | 5 00    | Mr. Jewett B. Darling, | 2 33 |
| Capt. Israel Whitcomb,     | 5 00    | “ George Heywood,      | 1 00 |
| Dr. Wm. H. Cutter,         | 7 00    | Ensign Simeon Stearns, | 1 00 |
| Mr. Samuel Noyes,          | 2 00    | Mr. Lyman Raymond,     | 1 00 |
| Mr. Asa Perley,            | 5 00    | “ James Martin,        | 1 00 |
| Col. Jacob B. Woodberry,   | 5 00    | Capt. Timothy Hancock, | 3 00 |
| Mr. Joseph Whitney,        | 8 00    | Mr. Levi Woodberry,    | 3 00 |
| Mr. Jacob Whitney,         | 5 00    | “ Richard Stuart,      | 3 00 |
| Capt. Abijah Pierce,       | 10 00   | “ Samuel Brown, 2d,    | 3 00 |
| Lt. Hananiah Whitney, Jr., | 5 00    | “ Phinehas Parks,      | 1 00 |
| Mr. Asa Washburn,          | 10 00   | Capt. Abel Jones,      | 1 00 |
| Mr. Lovell Goodridge,      | 5 00    | Mr. Eber Arnold,       | 5 00 |
| Mr. Joshua Gill,           | 5 00    | “ Mr. Luke Parks,      | 1 00 |
| Mr. Moses M. Reed,         | 5 00    | “ Rufus Wilder,        | 1 00 |
| “ Stephen Tolman,          | 5 00    | Enoch Kidder, Esq.,    | 2 00 |
| “ Seth Tucker,             | 5 00    | Lt. Paul Raymond, Jr., | 5 00 |
| “ Jonas Brooks,            | 5 00    | Mr. Asa Hale,          | 1 00 |
| “ Joshua Smith,            | 5 00    | “ Samuel Brown, Jr.,   | 1 00 |
| Capt. Joshua Stoddard,     | 6 00    | “ Charles Raymond,     | 1 00 |

|                       |      |                             |      |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| Capt. David Beaman,   | 1 00 | Mr. Levi Brooks,            | 1 00 |
| Mr. Thomas Greenwood, | 5 00 | “ Ebenezer Richardson, Jr., | 1 00 |
| “ Atkins Norton,      | 7 00 | Lt. John Raymond,           | 1 00 |
| “ Luther Stimson,     | 1 50 | Mr. David Buttrick,         | 1 00 |
| “ Israel Taylor, Jr., | 1 00 | “ John Crosby,              | 1 00 |
| “ John Brook, 2d,     | 1 00 | “ William Potter,           | 1 00 |
| “ Phinehas Ross,      | 1 00 | “ Reuben Vose,              | 1 00 |
| “ William Tolman,     | 1 50 | “ Bartholomew Stearns,      | 1 32 |
| “ David Goodridge,    | 1 50 | “ Seth Sargeant,            | 50   |
| “ Caleb Lincoln,      | 1 00 | “ Joseph Ditson,            | 25   |
| “ Arba Brooks,        | 1 00 | “ Aaron Sargeant,           | 25   |
| “ John Estey,         | 1 00 |                             |      |

H. G. NEWCOMB, }  
 EPHRAIM MURDOCK, } *Committee.”*  
 ISAAC MORSE, }

The report of the committee respecting the belfry was taken up in town meeting, which report was “that they accept of the belfry or steeple, on condition that the undertakers make some alterations as they agreed.” The report was accepted. Then the town “accepted of the bell as offered by the proprietors’ committee.” After which the town “tendered their thanks to the proprietors of the bell for their great generosity and benevolence.” Samuel Prentice was chosen as agent to convey the pews recently built to Capt. Phinehas Whitney, who had been foremost in the enterprise of erecting the steeple, obtaining the bell, and building the new pews.

The bell was a great novelty, and the young people listened to its booming sound with wonder. They rang it by the hour; and when one party was wearied, another relieved them, until not only the air, but the people were full of the sound. The next year, April 7, the town made certain regulations about the time of ringing, which are here given. “Voted, that the bell is to be rung on Sundays according to usual custom, and for all other meetings and funerals. And till the 15th of May, at 9 o’clock in the evening; and from the 15th of September, at 9 o’clock in the evening for the remainder of the year; and at 12 o’clock at noon during the year.”

1818, May 4. The town chose a committee of three “to see if they can find a convenient place in the meeting-house to set a stove, viz: Messrs. Ephraim Murdock, Israel Whitcomb, and Moses Hale.” It was more than five years after this before the town allowed a stove to be put into the house at private expense. At this meeting, \$250 were

granted to defray the expense of painting the meeting-house—the work to be done this year or next—the body of the house to be white, the roof black. Messrs. Murdock, Morse and Hale were the committee.

#### SECTION 8.—DEATH OF MR. PILLSBURY.

After a brief sickness, Mr. Pillsbury departed this life on the 5th of April, 1819, in the maturity of his powers, and while increasing in devotedness to his work, and growing in usefulness. The next day, Tuesday, April 6, “a large number of the inhabitants of the town of Winchendon,” say the Records, “assembled at the meeting-house in said town, occasioned by the recent death of the Rev. Levi Pillsbury, Pastor of the church of Christ in Winchendon, and minister of the Congregational Society in said town, who departed this life, April 5th, 1819, in the forty-eighth year of his age, and eighteenth of his ministry; after the throne of grace was addressed in prayer by the Rev. Samuel Simonds, the following votes were passed, Dea. Desire Tolman, Moderator.

*“Voted, that the town pay the funeral charges of their deceased minister.*

*Voted, that the town provide necessary articles of mourning for the family of the deceased minister.*

*Voted, that Messrs. Horatio G. Newcomb, Isaac Morse, Ephraim Murdock, Phineas Whitney, Israel Whitcomb, Paul Raymond, Jr., Moses Hale, Jr., Jacob Woodbury, and Moses M. Reed, be a committee to provide for, make arrangements, and conduct the funeral procession.*

*Voted, that the Rev. Samuel Simonds be invited to attend the funeral with other ministers.*

*Voted, that three of the principal singers be a committee to make arrangements respecting the singing at the funeral. Messrs. Elias Sherwin, Zenas Hancock and Job Hyde, were chosen for said committee.”*

On the 10th of May, the town voted to allow the account presented by the committee chosen to superintend the funeral of Mr. Pillsbury. It is headed, “Bill of the expense of the funeral of the late Rev. Levi Pillsbury, and the amount expended for mourning clothes for the family.” Then follow the items, including articles of food, as flour, sugar, meat, as well as pay for horses, and the inevitable liquor. Besides brandy and West India rum, there were “16 mugs of toddy delivered the Music, costing \$4.00, and 11-4 mugs for the committee, at 31 cents.” Articles of wearing apparel were procured, amounting to about thirty

dollars. The coffin cost four dollars, which was above the usual price in those days. One item indicates the severity of the season. The funeral was on the 7th or 8th of April, and there must have been, either a great body of old snow on the ground, or a recent fall, with drifts. The item is this: "rum and sugar for men shoveling road in snow, \$1.54; cigars, 13."

The close of the report of the committee, like all the proceedings of the town, shows the respect of the people for their minister, and their own proper self-respect, in paying due honor to his remains.

"The foregoing schedule comprises all the items and total amount of the funeral expenses of the late Rev. Levi Pilsberry, together with a specification of the articles, and amount expended in procuring for Mrs. Pilsberry and her family, a decent and suitable suit of mourning clothes, in conformity with a vote unanimously given by a large and respectable portion of the inhabitants of the town, convened for that purpose, on Tuesday, the 6th day of April, 1819.

The committee would here observe that they can safely assure the town, that in making the necessary arrangements for the funeral, as well as in procuring the materials therefor, and for the family suit, they avoided all unnecessary expenses, observing the best economy the nature of the case, and the circumstances would admit. All which is by your committee humbly submitted."

Thus reverently did the town follow their minister to the narrow house appointed for all the living.

#### SECTION 9.—SEEKING FOR A NEW MINISTER.

At this meeting, May 10, a committee of five,—viz: George Coffin, Isaac Morse, Samuel Prentice, Phinehas Whitney and Samuel Brown,—was chosen "by written votes, to supply the town with a preacher of the gospel." There is something curious about this meeting in one respect; that is, that it was continued by adjournment, for several months, and never accomplished anything farther. First, it adjourned to August 2; then to the 23d; then to November 1; then to the 22d; then to December 3d; then to the 14th; then to March 6, 1820. After hearing the report of the committee to supply the pulpit, adjourned to March 13; then met and voted that the committee hire a candidate as soon as possible. Adjourned to April 3; then to May 1; then to July 3; then met and voted that the committee be instructed to hire the Rev. Eber L. Clark seven Sabbaths more if they can agree with him.

Then adjourned to August 21; then met and adjourned to the first Monday in October next, at 4 o'clock P. M. Then says the town clerk, with a touch of humor, "this meeting died a natural death."

In the meantime, other meetings had been held, for the same purpose, but in reference to another candidate. On the 12th of October, 1819, it was voted "to choose a committee of three persons to wait on the Rev. Seth Payson, of Rindge, N. H., and Mr. Elam Clark, to the meeting-house, viz: Dea. Desire Tolman, Lieut. Isaac Morse, Capt. Phinehas Whitney." After the throne of grace was addressed by Dr. Payson, the town proceeded to business, and voted unanimously "to join with the church, and give Mr. Elam Clark a call to settle in the gospel ministry in this town. Voted to give Mr. Elam Clark six hundred and fifty dollars salary annually so long as he may be a gospel minister in this town; and two [or ten] hundred dollars settlement."

This call was declined. Mr. Clark preached some Sabbaths subsequently, and on Monday, March 6, 1820, it was voted, "that the town renew their call to Mr. Elam Clark, and to settle him as a gospel minister in this town upon the same conditions in all respects, which were offered him previously to his answer." In a few days Mr. Clark gave his second answer in the negative.

On the 14th of August, a committee was chosen—Messrs. Tolman, Coffin and Morse—to wait on the Rev. John Sebbins, [Sabin] of Fitzwilliam, and on Rev. Eber L. Clark, to the meeting-house to attend prayer. After prayer by Mr. Sabin, the town "voted unanimously to join with the church and give the Rev. Eber L. Clark a call to settle as a gospel minister in this town." The matter came up again on the 7th of September, at which time the terms of settlement were fixed. The town voted, with entire unanimity, to unite with the church, in calling Mr. Clark, upon the following conditions and terms:

"That this town will pay him six hundred dollars salary annually, so long as he remains a gospel minister in this place; also a settlement of four hundred dollars; the salary to commence on the day of his ordination. The town also agreed to pay him the four hundred dollars settlement, and so much of his salary as may become due on the twenty-fourth day of February next, after which time his salary shall become due on the 24th day of February annually."



Then comes this singular proviso : which shows that the town still remembered what it cost to get a former minister dismissed.

“ Provided however, that the Rev. Eber L. Clark, or two-thirds of the legal voters of the church and the Congregational Society in said town, shall in legal town meeting assembled for that purpose, think it expedient that the ministerial connection between them shall be dissolved, shall state to each other in writing, the peculiar grounds and causes of their dissatisfaction ; then in six months thereafter, in case a reconciliation should not take place, both parties shall consider themselves bound to join in a mutual ecclesiastical council, before whom the grounds of their dissatisfaction shall be stated ; and the connection shall be by them dissolved by their giving the minister and people such characters as they may think will be most for the honor of religion. And no money to be demanded as damage on either side.”

Then a committee of five—Messrs. Tolman, Coffin, Morse, Murdock and Woodbury,—were sent to wait upon Mr. Clark to the meeting ; and after half an hour, he came in and gave his answer in the affirmative. A committee of three,—Dea. Hale, Dea. Coffin and E. Murdock, Esq.,—were chosen to confer with Mr. Clark in regard to the time of the installation, who agreed upon the third Wednesday of October. The Selectmen were directed to agree with Mr. Eliel Sherwin “ to take the lead of singing ” at the public service. A committee of five to provide for the Council, was chosen, viz : E. Murdock, Lt. Paul Raymond, Samuel Brown, Amasa Whitney and Thomas Greenwood. All the neighboring ministers, with the Rev. John M. Whiton, of Andover, N. H., a native of this town, were to be invited to the Council. On the 18th of September, twelve Marshals of the day were chosen, viz : Messrs. H. G. Newcomb, Esq., E. Murdock, Esq., David Beaman, Israel Whitcomb, Lt. Paul Raymond, Capt. John Forristall, Capt. Joshua Stoddard, Capt. Abijah Pierce, Capt. Hananiah Whitney, Jr., Capt. John Raymond, Capt. Nathan Wood and Mr. Jacob Woodbury. This committee was also to see “ to the propping of the meeting-house.” Another committee was chosen to present the doings of the town to the Council, viz : Samuel Prentice, Moses M. Reed and Capt. Phinehas Whitney. And finally, a committee of three, in addition to the Selectmen, was chosen “ to provide for singing on the day of installation, not to exceed 20 dollars.” The committee were Capt. Stoddard, Stephen Tolman and Samuel Brown, Jr., besides the Selectmen, who were Gid-

eon Balcom, Asa Hale and William Tolman. Such was the action of the town when performing the part of a parish, in settling a minister, according to the old method.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A few extracts from the Records will close the history of the town as a parish. On the 21st of the following August, the town granted \$15, to be paid to Mrs. Pillsbury, for the purpose of purchasing grave stones for the Rev. Levi Pillsbury, deceased. Four years later, November 1, 1824, we find the following: "Voted that there be a grave-stone procured for the Rev. Levi Pillsbury, in the room of the one that was broke, to be assessed in the minister's tax next year, so that the Rev. Mr. Clark's society shall be at the expense of said stone."

1825, January 3. "Granted \$100 to be laid out in the instruction of singing in each religious society in town, in proportion to what they pay, and chose a committee of nine to lay out the money for that purpose to the best advantage of each society." The committee was composed of these persons. For the Congregational Society, Mr. Job Hyde, Dr. James M. Fuller, Mr. Stephen Tolman. For the Baptist Society, Dea. Joshua Smith, Mr. Stephen B. Smith, Luke Rice. For the Methodist Society, Capt. Joseph Robbins, Mr. Smyrna Graton, Mr. Richard Stuart. Probably the Baptist Society did not spend their portion of the appropriation for singing, as the Society was authorized by the town, May 2, to draw their money for singing, and pay it to individuals of said Society, by Dea. Joshua Smith.

At length the town became willing to have the meeting-house warmed, provided stoves could be procured at private expense, as will be seen by the following action. December 26, 1825. "Voted that the town accept of a stove or stoves and suitable funnels, and cause that they shall be erected, and taken proper care of, and provide wood for the same, and that a fire shall be made in said stoves at all proper times, provided there should be one or two purchased by subscription." Chose a committee, Israel Whitcomb, Amasa Whitney and Phinehas Whitney, "to superintend the erecting said stove or stoves." Then voted to purchase a cord of "good hard wood, seasoned and cut, birch, beech or maple;" the above committee "to superintend the building the fire in the stoves." By one move farther the town fixed this matter satisfactorily to itself. On the 12th of January, 1826, the above vote was

reconsidered, and then it was voted, "that the town give liberty that the stoves which are purchased by subscription, be erected in the Congregational meeting-house, and be supported by the Congregational Society." Probably the members of the Congregational Society, having learned that they could not have a stove in the place where they were accustomed to worship, without the consent of the town, were prepared to see that an entire separation from the town would be beneficial to the Congregational church and society. At all events, a vote was passed, at this meeting, by which the town ceased to act as a parish, and severed its connection with the Congregational church. It was in these words: "Voted that the town will cause all business relating to either society in town to be transacted in futer by the members of said society."

The time had fully come for the connection between the town and the parish to be terminated. It was formed when nearly all the inhabitants were of one mind in matters of religion, and when the fairest and readiest method of sustaining public worship, was through the action of the town. But a great change had taken place in the lapse of years. New families had moved in who were connected with other denominations of Christians. The unhappy troubles in the parish, and in the church, which had arisen from time to time, had alienated many from the "standing order." A Baptist and a Methodist church had been organized, and there was a number of persons who were neither Baptist, Methodist or Orthodox. It was obviously unjust to tax all these dissenting classes for the support of Orthodox preaching; and there was an inconvenience in abating their taxes every year. The best course to be taken for all parties, was for the town to cease to be a parish, and thus leave all denominations on the same basis, in regard to their connection with the town. This was done, and the town left the meeting-house in the possession of the Congregational Society for all purposes of worship, while it continued to hold town meetings within its walls until the new Town Hall in the Village was built. Since then the town, in its corporate capacity, has been happily free from all differences in regard to the maintenance of public worship, and the various religious societies have proved amply qualified to perform all the duties, in this line, which formerly were attended to by the municipal officers.

CHAPTER XII.—THE CLOSE OF THE  
LAST CENTURY.

“While systems change, and suns retire, and worlds slumber and wake—  
Time’s ceaseless march proceeds.”  
H. WARE.

The main portion of our history has been brought down to the year 1800. What remains pertaining to the militia, to business, and other matters, will be given in subsequent chapters. But before proceeding farther, it will be well to pause here, and look at the state of society, the condition of the people, and their mode of living, as well as their numbers, at the close of the eighteenth century.

The population, as found at the taking of the first census by the general government, in 1790, was nine hundred and forty-six. In the year 1800, the people had increased to the number of one thousand and ninety-two. This was a gain of one hundred and forty-six in ten years. There was a corresponding increase in business and value of property. Land was cleared by degrees, and some of the timber was worked into lumber, such as boards, shingles, and planks; but the great business of the town in after years, that is, the manufacture of wooden ware, had not yet been undertaken. “At the beginning of the present century,” says Dr. Whiton, “Winchendon, though it had made considerable progress in its material interests, yet exhibited a strong contrast to its present appearance. The very last log house had disappeared; but most of the dwellings were of one story, nearly all unpainted, and very many un-clapboarded, the abundance and excellence of the pine timber notwithstanding. The door-yards were covered with logs and litter, and it was no strange thing for the pig-sty to hold a position in part of the house. Of the comparatively few two-story buildings, most of those that had been painted at all, were red or yellow. Not more than one or two white houses were to be seen, *white* then being thought too expensive and pretentious, subjecting the owner of the house to some unpleasant criticism as trying to out-shine his neighbors. Scarce a house could boast of an ornamental fence, or any ornamental appendage whatever; not one of Venetian blinds; it had been thought extravag-

agance. Not more than two or three papered rooms could be found in the town, and hardly such a thing as a carpet. Sofas, ottomans, pianos, were unheard of. Tea had become a common beverage, but coffee did not make its way into common use till some time after. The *great* luxuries of that day were *rum*, and tea in female society, among whom was found, here and there, a tobacco-smoker. The roads were imperfectly wrought, and rocky, and there were not more than two or three pleasure carriages in the place." This, however, was a sign of great advancement, since the tradition is, that the wife of the first minister, Mrs. Stimpson, was drawn into town, by the Templeton road, on a hand sled; that Mrs. Brown, the second minister's wife, rode into town in an ox-cart; and that Mrs. Pillsbury came in a chaise. This last event was in 1801. At this time, "many of the fields were deformed with rocks, stumps, decaying logs, and log-fences. Men had formerly in winter dug their wood from under the snow, but now began to think of wood-houses, and to feel able to build them.

In addition to what is said above, in regard to dwellings in the year 1800, the author has learned from ancient people, that about twenty houses were two stories in height. Some of them remain, while others have yielded to decay, or have been re-placed by smaller buildings. The Abel Wilder house, where Mr. Dexter Bruce now resides, was of two stories. The John Boynton house, where Mr. Cain lives at present, was of similar form. The Nichols tavern, half way up the hill, was a very large house for the country.

There had been no very marked improvement in the schools, up to this time, though unquestionably some advancement had been made in the means of education. Some of the school-books were better than those used by the early settlers. Teachers were better qualified for their office than those who taught in the preceding generation. Yet the only advantage of much value which the children of 1800 had over those of 1764, was in the increased length of the schools. Larger appropriations of money from time to time, gave the scholars greater opportunities for mental improvement. Reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic, constituted, however, nearly the whole curriculum of the pupils down to the close of the period now under review.

A great change had taken place in the style of church music, and in the use of instruments in public worship. The citations already made from the Records, show that the town had favored a change from the

ancient hymns, and the old version of the psalms, to those of Watts. By a vote of the town, the church had been desired to introduce a bass viol into the choir. New singing books came into vogue, and the town sometimes paid the expense of supporting singing-schools. These changes were not made without a struggle. Old usages were not lightly abandoned for new-fangled notions. In many places, scenes similar to that which occurred in Peterborough, N. H., were enacted. Though no such disturbance took place here, the anecdote may be given as illustrative of the times towards the close of the last century. On one occasion, when Dr. Payson, of Rindge, was preaching at Peterborough, the chorister, John Smith, brother of Gov. Smith, gave the key-note on the pitch-pipe; the choir began to sing, but soon became confused, and stopped; when one of the Scotch-Irish settlers, who called the bass-viol *dragon*, and the pitch-pipe the *whistle*, sitting in the ancient body seats near the desk, slowly turned his head toward the choir, and exclaimed aloud in the church, in his broad Scotch accent, "Mr. Johnny Smith, ye must *blaw* your *whastle* again."

The first meeting-house was abandoned in the beginning of 1793. In the latter part of its occupancy, says Dr. Whiton, "the choristers were Ebenezer Sherwin and Daniel Farrar, the tunes most in vogue, were the old fugues of Billings and other American composers, which had almost driven out of use the more ancient and simple melodies sung by our Pilgrim Fathers. These fugues were sung here with *not* a superabundance of taste; he that could make the most noise, and get along the fastest, bearing off the palm as the best performer. The key-note was sounded by a pitch-pipe which in boyhood I used to behold with a sort of awe as a very mysterious contrivance." But in time the musical instruments made their way into the sanctuary, and before the century came in, they were considered almost indispensable in choirs which made any pretensions to taste and correctness in rendering the musical productions of that day.

Fashions changed in old times, though not so rapidly as now. About the last of the century came in vogue the Quaker bonnet, with its immense projection over the face, the very antipode of the bonnet now fashionable. Indeed, a bonnet is now among the antiquities; hats and other head-gear having displaced bonnets almost universally. Could the ladies of the present day, says our author, "look in on a congrega-

tion interspersed with Quaker bonnets, the whole scene would strike them as grotesque. Two or three antique wigs continued to make their appearance here on Sunday. How great the changes which the intervening years have ushered in! But if some things relative to our predecessors provoke a smile, we are not to forget that if the circumstances surrounding them were less favorable to the developement of taste, they were perhaps *more* favorable to the developement of moral worth. At the beginning of the century, Winchendon contained a large number of men and women of warm hearts, intelligent heads and kindly dispositions; who, if their external appearance put forth less of pretension, were exemplars of good sense, industry, frugality, and fidelity to moral and religious obligations."

Habits and customs had not become changed so much as to indicate a marked advance between the time of the incorporation of the town and the close of the century. "Homespun" was still the outward garb, and manners were but a shade less rustic than in the first generation. The amusements of the people, old and young, were the same as in the time of their fathers and mothers. "Bees," of all kinds were yet in vogue, and "trainings" were great days both for boys and "children of a larger growth." And here it may not be out of place to observe that there is no point in our history about which there is more gross misapprehension than this. It is difficult for many to believe that our predecessors of two generations back, and farther into the past, knew anything of the enjoyments of life. Young persons, taking their impression from novelists and poets, suppose the people in old times were grave, sour-visaged and morose, and that they made it their business to repress every expression of youthful delight. So far has this unfilial misrepresentation been carried, that patient endurance of it has ceased to be a virtue. One cannot resist the conclusion that some of our most admired writers, either have no knowledge of Puritan character, or that a bigoted prejudice renders them unfit to describe the noblest and most happy race of people who ever lived on earth. There is a positive pleasure in turning from their untruthful pages to the noble "History of New England," by Dr. Palfrey, who has evidently made the character of our ancestors a pleasant study to himself, as well as a delightful object of contemplation to us their descendants. The people in "old times" were a happy people. If they were not, in the language of Mrs. Brown, "as poor as poverty," at the close of the century, as

they were on her arrival in 1769, yet they were "as merry as griggs." In other words, they lived an industrious, upright and joyous life.

The following list of names finds its appropriate place here between the two centuries. It will enable persons born since that time, to trace their genealogy as far back as to their father, grandfather, and it may be, their great-grandfather. The table may be taken as a point of departure in family history, by those whose family records do not reach far back into the past. It will be a great convenience to increasing numbers, in coming generations, who will be grateful to Mr. Luke Rice, from whose tenacious memory it is derived.

The following persons were living together in Winchendon as man and wife in the year 1800. For convenience the names are arranged alphabetically.

## NAME OF HUSBAND.

Col. Benjamin Adams,  
Lt. Abiel Alger, Sen.,  
David Alger,  
Eber Arnold, Sen.,  
Daniel Balcom,  
Gideon Balcom,  
Benjamin Barry,  
Noah Battles, Sen.,  
\*Samuel Beal,  
Storr Beal,  
Capt. David Beaman,  
John Bemis,  
Andrew Benjamin,  
Thomas Bennet, Sen.,  
Ebenezer Bigelow,  
Roger Bigelow,  
Levi Bixby,  
Walsingham Bosworth, \*  
Asa Bowker, Sen.,  
Daniel Boynton,  
Lt. Joseph Boynton,  
Col. Paul Boynton,  
Robert Bradish, Jr.,  
James Bradish, Sen.,  
John Brooks,  
Levi Brooks,  
Amasa Brown,  
Benjamin Brown, Jr.,

## MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE.

Zeruiah Boynton,  
Rhoda Drake,  
Sally Lathrop,  
Lucy Green,  
Mercy Maynard,  
Anna Hale,  
Jane Poor,  
Lucinda Hallowell,  
Eunice Boynton,  
Mary Leavitt,  
Polly Carter,  
Susan Saunders,  
Polly Pierce,  
Mary Pratt,  
Sally Wales,

Widow Boynton,  
Mary Piper,  
Hannah Harwood,  
Dolly Boynton,  
Zeruiah Wilder,  
Sally Sweetzer,  
Lucy Jackson,  
Polly Moore,  
Lois Barr,  
Betsey Flint,  
Sybil Stoddard,  
Susanna Fletcher,

\*Perhaps not married quite so early as this date.



| NAME OF HUSBAND.           | MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Cyrus Brown,               | Hannah Cook,         |
| Hezekiah Brown, Sen.,      | Priscilla Marcy,     |
| Rev. Joseph Brown,         | Sarah Smith,         |
| Levi Brown,                | Rebecca Phillips,    |
| Samuel Brown, Sen.,        | Lavina Bruce,        |
| Jonas Bruce,               | Lucy Taylor,         |
| Oliver Buckley,            |                      |
| Abiel Buttrick, Sen.,      | Eunice Heywood,      |
| Daniel Buttrick,           | — Fairbanks,         |
| Capt. Charles Chase, Sen., | Hannah Stewart,      |
| George Coffin, Sen.,       | Abigail Raymond,     |
| Henry Crooks, Sen.,        | Betsey Barrett,      |
| Flavel Crosby,             | Lucy Howe,           |
| John Crosby,               | Mehitable Locke,     |
| Samuel Crosby, Esq.,       | Azubah Howe,         |
| Abner Curtis, Sen.,        | Ruth Hale,           |
| Abner Curtis, Jr.,         | Betsey Pike,         |
| Moses Curtis,              | Betsey Benjamin,     |
| Jewett B. Darling,         | Deborah Mumlock,     |
| Daniel Day,                | Ambrey Bruce,        |
| John Day, Sen.,            | Betsey Joselyn,      |
| Joseph Day,                | Lucy Sherwin,        |
| Levi Divoll, Sen.,         | Grace Wilder,        |
| Alexander Dunham,          | Mary Hale,           |
| Artemas Edmands,           | Esther Hyde,         |
| Francis Emery,             | Eunice Philbrick,    |
| Stephen Emery, Sen.,       | Lydia Kimball,       |
| Jonathan Evans, Sen.,      | Mehitable Sherwin,   |
| Eliphalet Fairbank,        |                      |
| Daniel Farrar, Sen.,       | Ednah Boynton,       |
| John Fessenden, Sen.,      | — Howard,            |
| Simeon Fisk,               |                      |
| John Flagg, Sen.,          | Betsey Blanchard,    |
| Nathan Flint, Sen.,        | Abigail Brown,       |
| Thomas Flint, Sen.,        | Mehitable Brown,     |
| Joseph Freeman,            | Hannah Howard,       |
| Job Fry, Sen.,             | Parney Drake,        |
| John Gill,                 | — Lincoln,           |
| Calvin Goss,               | Betsey Russell,      |
| Amos Goodhue,              | Sally Payson,        |
| John Goodhue,              | Mary McFarland,      |
| Daniel Goodridge, Sen.,    | Hannah Low,          |
| Eliphalet Goodridge,       | Rebecca Snow,        |
| Samuel P. Goodridge,       | Joanna Stoddard,     |
| David Goodridge, Sen.,     | Silena Joselyn,      |
| Capt. Thomas Graton,       | Rebecca Chaplin,     |
| Thomas Greenwood, Sen.,    | Deborah Barber,      |

| NAME OF HUSBAND.          | MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE. |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| * Isaac Grout, Sen.,      | Sally Stearns,       |
| Amos Hale, Sen.,          | Sally Day,           |
| Asa Hale,                 | Sally Hancock,       |
| Benjamin Hale,            | Sally Brown,         |
| Jacob Hale, Sen.,         | Ruth Towne,          |
| Jacob Hale, Jr.,          | Betsey Brown,        |
| Dea. Moses Hale, Sen.,    | Ruth Foster,         |
| Capt. Timothy Hancock,    | Lucy Stoddard,       |
| Samuel Hartwell, Sen.,    | Lois Hartwell,       |
| Robert Houghton,          | Sarah Jones,         |
| Dea. Amos Heywood,        | Widcw — Parsons,     |
| Daniel Heywood, Sen.,     | Hannah Fairbanks,    |
| Capt. Lemuel Heywood,     | Abigail Parsons,     |
| *Lieut. Levi Heywood,     | Beulah Buttrick,     |
| Lieut. Benjamin Hubbard,  | Rebecca Paine,       |
| Ezra Hyde, Sen.,          | Elizabeth Whitney,   |
| Job Hyde, Sen.,           | Elizabeth Ward,      |
| Samuel Johnson,           | Susan Sanderson,     |
| Capt. Abel Jones, Sen.,   | Lucinda Heywood,     |
| *Apollon Keith,           | Mary Drake,          |
| Benjamin Kidder,          | Ruth Howard,         |
| Howard Kidder,            | Zilpah Phelps,       |
| Matthew Knight,           |                      |
| Nathan Knight,            | Susan Putnam,        |
| Thomas Litch,             | Jane Kennedy,        |
| Aaron Marcy,              | Huldah Stoddard,     |
| Paul Matthews,            | Ellen Gilbert,       |
| Nathan Maynard,           | Lydia Butler,        |
| Daniel May, Sen.,         | Betsey Willard,      |
| James Miles,              |                      |
| Dea. Levi Moor, Sen.,     | Parna Howe,          |
| Ephraim Murdock, Sen.,    | Zeruiah Bixby,       |
| James Murdock, Sen.,      | Deborah Williams,    |
| James Murdock, Jr.,       | Polly Chaplin,       |
| James McElwain,           | Rebecca Whitcomb,    |
| Dea. Asa Nourse, Sen.,    | Olive Fosgate,       |
| Lieut. Isaac Noyes, Sen., | Sally Haven,         |
| James Noyes, Sen.,        | Hannah Russell,      |
| Samuel Noyes, Sen.,       | Hannah Faulkner,     |
| Benjamin Nutting,         | Silence Goodridge,   |
| Ephraim Parmenter,        | Unity Darling,       |
| Eleazar Parks,            | Elizabeth Whitney,   |
| Jacob Parks,              | Hannah Chaplin,      |
| Phinehas Parks,           | Betsey Stewart,      |
| Oliver Parsons,           | Lois Priest,         |
| Jairus Partridge,         | Betsey Goodale,      |
| Eliot Payson,             | Ruth Hale,           |

\* Died the year before.

## NAME OF HUSBAND.

James Payson,  
 Asa Perley,  
 Lieut. Dudley Perley,  
 John Perley,  
 William Poland, Sen.,  
 Daniel Poor,  
 Lieut. David Poor, Sen.,  
 Luke Prentice,  
 Dea. Samuel Prentice, Sen.,  
 Dea. Samuel Prentice, Jr., Esq.,  
 Seth Prouty,  
 James Raymond,  
 Jesse Raymond,  
 Col. Paul Raymond, Sen.,  
 Lieut. Paul Raymond, Jr.,  
 Amos Rice,  
 Lieut. Benjamin Rice,  
 Capt. David Rice, Sen.,  
 Ebenezer Richardson, Sen.,  
 William Robbins, Sen.,  
 William Robbins, Jr.,  
 David Roberts,  
 Peter Russell,  
 Samuel Sargent, Sen.,  
 Ebenezer Sherwin, Sen.,  
 \*Francis Sherwin, Sen.,  
 David Smith,  
 Isaac Smith,  
 Bartholomew Stearns, Sen.,  
 Ainos Stevens,  
 Paul Stewart,  
 Isaac Stimpson,  
 Luther Stimpson, Sen.,  
 Abel Stockwell,  
 David Stoddard, Sen.,  
 David Stoddard, Jr.,  
 James Stoddard,  
 Capt Joshua Stoddard,  
 Leavitt Stoddard,  
 Major Nathaniel Sylvester,  
 Isaac Taylor, Sen.,  
 Dea. Desire Tolman,  
 Elisha Tucker,  
 Seth Tucker, Sen.,  
 Jedediah Tuttle, Sen.,  
 Simon Tuttle, Sen.,

## MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE.

Widow — Robbins,  
 Polly Hunt,  
 — Hale,  
 Mary Spalding,  
 Betsey Brown,  
 Polly Martin,  
 Jane Martin,  
 Susanna Wilder,  
 Beulah Sawyer,  
 Rebecca McElwain,  
 Eunice Stearns,  
 Widow Molly Gale,  
 Mary Miller,  
 Abigail Jones,  
 Sarah Gale,  
 Martha Brown,  
 Ruth Budge,  
 Eunice Hosmer,  
 Sarah Richardson,  
 Nancy Leland,  
 Eunice Ware,  
 Elizabeth Woodbury,  
 Sally Noyes,  
 Mary Darling,  
 Lucy Curtis,  
 Rachel Knight,  
 Lydia Dodge,  
 Betsey Curtis,  
 Molly Raymond,  
 Susan Noyes,  
 Hannah Robbins,  
  
 Sally McElwain,  
 Betsey —,  
 Sybil Leavitt,  
 Lydia Brown,  
 Susan Humphrey,  
 Lois Balcom,  
 Ruth Hale,  
 Lucy Clapp,  
 Elizabeth Whitney,  
 Elizabeth Howe,  
 Sally Preston Howe,  
 Jane Payson,  
 Lucy Smith,  
 Lucy Witheredge,

\* Perhaps left town before 1800.

| NAME OF HUSBAND.           | MAIDEN NAME OF WIFE. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Capt. Jacob Wales, Sen.,   | Phebe Howard,        |
| Samuel Walker, Sen.,       | Betsey Wyman,        |
| Dea. Stephen Weston, Sen., | Susan Whitney,       |
| Israel Whitcomb, Sen.,     | Eunice Wilson,       |
| Jacob Whitney,             | Mary Patch,          |
| Hananiah Whitney, Sen.,    | —— Keyes,            |
| Joseph Whitney,            | Hannah Perley,       |
| Capt. Phinehas Whitney,    | Bethiah Barrett,     |
| William Whitney,           | Mary Mansfield,      |
| Dr. Israël Whiton, Esq.,   | Dolly Crosby,        |
| Abel Wilder, Jr.,          | Eunice Hale,         |
| Capt. Benjamin Wilder,     | Lydia Lane,          |
| Gardiner Wilder,           | Lucinda Bixby,       |
| Capt. Joseph Wilder, Sen., | Anna Barrett,        |
| Thomas Wilder,             | Lucy Crosby,         |
| Isaac Willard,             | Sally Goodrich,      |
| Nathaniel Wilson, Sen.,    | Mary Atwell,         |
| Col. Jacob B. Woodbury,    | Hannah Roberts,      |
| Thomas Wyman, Sen.,        | Betsey Read,         |
| Thomas Wyman, Jr.          | Sylvia Bowker.       |

## CHAPTER XIII.—ANNALS; 1800–1868.

“One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever.”  
ECCLESIASTES.

In this chapter the Annals of the town will be brought down to the close of one hundred years from the date of organization. Various items of a miscellaneous character will be inserted under this head, which do not belong to continuous history, but which will either throw light on the condition of the town, or will be interesting to individuals because of the connection of ancestral names with them. What may seem trivial to some persons, will be read with deep interest by others.

1800, September 10. Granted Benjamin Adams leave to set up a blacksmith's shop on the meeting-house Common, west of the new pound, and adjoining the north line of the Common.

November 3, Voted to raise the canopy three feet higher than it now is. Chose Dea. Moses Hale an agent to meet in convention to form a new county.

December 1, Dea. Hale reported the doings of the convention, and then the town voted to dismiss the article.

1802, March 1. Voted to build a powder-house of brick.

1803, April 4. Chose the Selectmen a committee “to procure a carriage to convey corpse on to the burying-yard.”

1804, March 5. Voted to build a house “to keep the carriage in that the town has bought to carry corpse on.”

November 5, Left with the Selectmen, if they see proper, to make a place in the hearse house, for the town's stock of military stores.

1806, November 3. Voted that the Selectmen build a place in the hearse house to secure the town's stock of ammunition.

1807, March. Voted that the Selectmen provide a place for the maps of the State.

August 31, An article to see if the town will make the soldiers that are detached in this town, any compensation, provided they are called into actual service. Voted “to make up” ten dollars per month.

1808, March 7. Voted and chose Capt. Abel Jones, Capt. David Beaman, and Col. Benj. Adams, a committee to provide a sufficient quantity of cartridges for the soldiers, to be kept by the Selectmen for review at the annual training. [These were to be used in sham-fights, and in other ways incident to military trainings.]

1810, May 7. The town approved the doings of the Selectmen in getting brandy and opium for the use of the sick. Voted to sell the brandy and opium to the best advantage. Passed over the article to see what farther method the town will take to defray any expense that may arise in case the spotted fever should break out in the limits of the town.

1812, August 10. Voted that the town will make up the detached soldiers ten dollars per month, in case the General Court doth not make them up \$10 per man.

1813, May 1. Voted that the town clerk procure a case to keep his books in, and establish his office where he thinks proper.

1814, November 7. Voted to make up to the detached soldiers from this town, including what the General Government gives them, \$13.33 per month.

1815, September 11. Voted that the Selectmen "dispose of the property left by Rebecca Goodridge, to the best advantage of the town, all except the gold nubs which is to be given to the widow Goodridge, mother of the deceased."

1815, November 7. Col. Benjamin Adams was allowed to move some of the horse sheds that stood in the way of his building a house. He was to move them as far south of his barn as the town pound, on condition that he should do it at his own cost, and erect a convenient stone horse-block, and give the town two dollars annually, and remove them back when the town should think proper.

1817, March 3. An article to see if the town will grant any assistance to the town of Fitzwilliam towards building a meeting-house. Passed over.

Voted that the Assessors, the present year, take a valuation in the town of Winchendon, of the real and personal estate, by going to each taxable person in said town; to begin the first day of May. The Assessors were Isaac Morse, Jacob Woodbury and Moses Hale, Esq.

May 26, A committee was appointed to see about the boundaries of

the Common, with the idea that certain persons were encroaching on it at the southeast part. The following is their report.

“They find by the Proprietors’ Book, that in the year 1762, the Proprietors voted a lot of five acres from the northwest corner of lot No. 1, in the south division, for a Meeting House, Training Field and Burying Ground, beginning at the northwest corner of said lot, thence southerly with the line of said lot, 48 rods; thence easterly,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  rods; thence northerly on a parallel line with the west line, 48 rods; thence westerly to the place of beginning.”

The supposed encroachments were found to be next to nothing. The stone post for a leading corner was erected in the northwest corner. The report was not accepted, for some reason, but the boundaries are correct.

1818, November 2. Voted that the town cause a book-case or drawers to be procured, to keep the town books and records of said town. Also two books to record the valuation and standards of taxes.

1819, May 10. Voted to give a bounty of one dollar for each wild-cat that may be killed within the limits of the town of Winchendon, and brought whole to the Treasurer of said town.

1823, April 7. Reconsidered the vote passed March 2, 1772, respecting building horse sheds on the meeting-house Common.

1825, March 7. Voted to request the Court of Sessions, to cause a survey of the county to be made giving the county and turnpike roads, &c.

April 21, Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to procure a new hearse and harness.

1826, March 6. For the first time since the organization of the town, no appropriation was made at the annual meeting, for the support of the gospel. The first Congregational church was now connected with an independent parish, which assumed the duty of maintaining public worship in the meeting-house on the Common.

1827, April 2. Voted that the Assessors take a new valuation the present year.

This and other valuations were destroyed when the Assessors’ books were burned.

\* 1828, April 7. On the question of dividing the county, the votes were, yeas, 32; nays, 34.

1830, May 3. Voted that the Selectmen carry out the Resolve of the Legislature requiring towns to make survey of their territory.

They appointed Elias Whitney, Surveyor, by whom the work was done. His map is considered tolerably correct as to distances and locations, but is full of errors in respect to names of persons and places.

November 16, Voted to instruct our Representative, [William Brown] to vote not to appropriate any of our public money for the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument.

1831, April 4. Voted to pay all the soldiers their poll tax, that are entitled to it by law.

1831, November 14. Voted that the town Treasurer be authorized to pay three dollars a head for every wild-cat that is killed in the town of Winchendon.

1833, March 7. Voted that the Selectmen procure a hearse.

1837, May 1. Voted that individuals may build horse sheds on the Common in any place that the Selectmen shall direct.

1838, June 18. Chose a committee with reference to building a tomb for a depository of the dead in winter.

August 20, Authorized the Selectmen to build a tomb, provided they can get one built for what they consider a reasonable sum.

1839, April 1. Voted that the town pay the sexton's bills for burying all the dead in the public burying grounds in the town.

1840, March 2. Voted to allow the account for the expense of the small pox, \$109.19. Allowed the account of Dr. A. Godding for vaccinating inhabitants, \$98.37.

March 2, Voted to repair the bell-deck and belfry.

1844, March 3. Voted to repair the bell. Expense of repairing, \$120.96. Voted that the Assessors put the inhabitants upon their oaths as to the truth of their statements in giving their valuation.

1847, November 29. Chose a committee to see about building a new Town House, or fitting up the lower part of the first Congregational Meeting-house.

1848, March 6. Voted not to build a Town Hall, yeas, 78; nays, 145.

November 28, Voted to relinquish all right and title the town may have, (if any,) to the first Congregational Meeting-house, to the first Congregational Society.

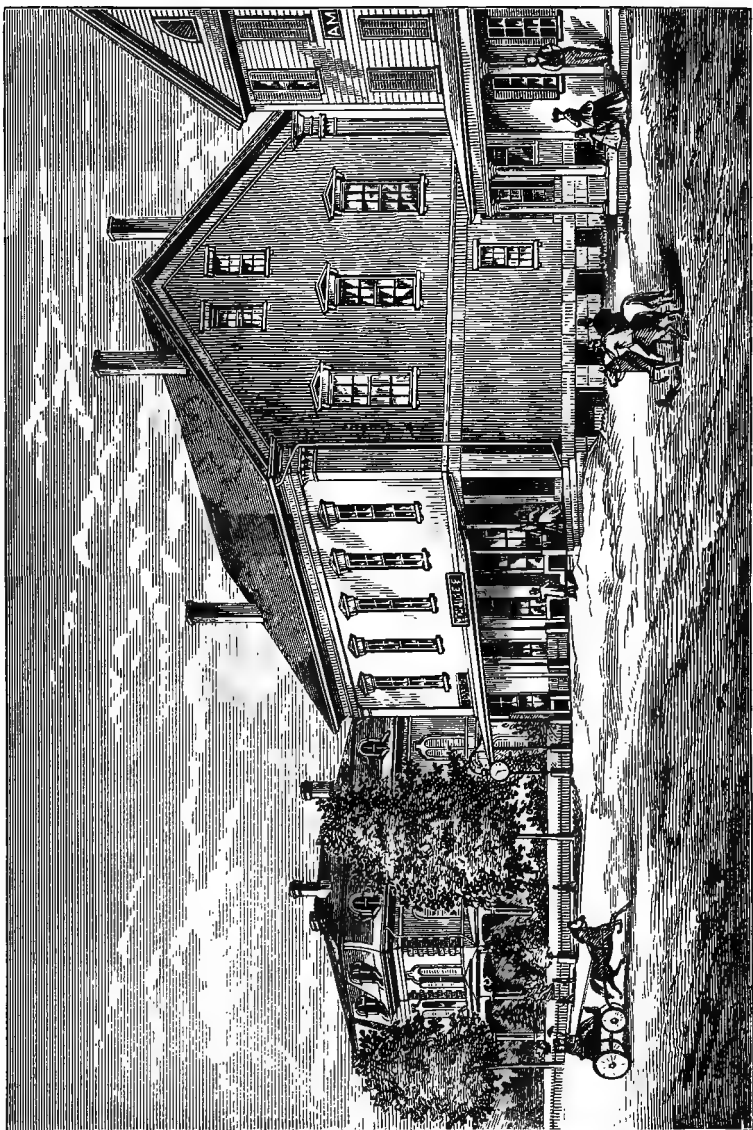
1849, January 19. Certain rules were made respecting rabid dogs. They were to be restrained three months. Those running at large were liable to be killed. Any person for killing a rabid dog was to have a bounty of a dollar.



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Town Hall.

March 20, Voted to have the bells on the First and the North Congregational churches rung at noon and in the evening.

1850, April 15. Took action respecting guide-boards. Chose a committee with reference to new Town Hall.

April 15, Voted to build a Town House to transact our town business in. Chose a committee of nine to purchase land, and contract for building Town House, subject to the approval of the town; viz: E. Murdock, Jr., Joseph White, Levi Raymond, Ezra Porter, Seth Tucker, Jr., Levi Parks, C. C. Alger, Levi Greenwood, C. R. Whitman.

May 13, The town meeting was held in Mrs. Lucy Rice's barn. At this time, the old meeting-house was being taken down, that the materials might be used in building a new one.

May 21, The town meeting was held in the basement of the North Congregational Church. The committee on Town Hall reported, and by vote, were discharged after getting deeds and lease executed and recorded. Chose three for a building committee; viz: Elisha Murdock, David Caswell and Sidney Fairbanks.

May 27, Met in the basement of the North Congregational Society's house. Voted that the committee chosen on the 21st inst., called the building committee, be and are hereby instructed to fulfil the contract made by the town with Harrison Harwood, by finishing and completing the building contemplated in that contract according to the plan presented by the committee on location and place of Town Hall.

November 11, Met in basement, and adjourned to the new Town Hall.

1851, March 18. The question of dividing the county came up again. For it, 35; against it, 46.

1852, January 31. Voted to purchase a Safe for the Books and Papers of the town.

May 4. The Selectmen to let the Town Hall only to such exhibitions as they may think advantageous to the town.

1854, March 6. Chose E. Murdock, Jr., agent to oppose the division of Worcester county.

1855, March 25. Laid two dollars tax on dogs for license, annually; and voted to enforce the law in relation to dogs.

1856, March 3. Again, the question in regard to dividing Worcester county came up, and received an emphatic answer. For a division, 50; against, 190.

1860, March 5. Committee on tombstones for Mrs. Tolman, Mrs. Rice, and first minister, reported. Report laid on the table.

March 10, The Selectmen were instructed to put up guide-boards where needed.

June 4, A committee of twenty-five was chosen—one or more in each district—to see that the laws restraining cattle from running at large, are carried out to their fullest extent. The following rules were adopted, and put in force, as the people were much alarmed by the *Cattle Disease*, or *Pleuro-pneumonia*.

“No cattle to be in highway, unless at work, or being driven from place to place. Not to be suffered to stop in highway to feed, or for any other purpose.

To use all legal measures to prevent cattle from being driven into or out of town. When cattle are driven, owners on the road to be notified. ■

No cattle on the line of the road to be allowed to come near them.

The citizens agree to co-operate, and give notice of any violations of law.

*Voted* that it is desirable that the Legislature now in session, take such action in reference to the cattle disease, called *Pleuro-pneumonia*, as to give cities and towns power to forbid neat cattle from entering, leaving, or passing through their bounds. That Selectmen may have power to isolate, kill, or apply remedies, (as they may think proper,) to any cattle within their limits, which may be suspected, or known to have been exposed to said disease.”

June 18, The Selectmen issued a notice, in accordance with a special act of the Legislature, forbidding all neat cattle, coming into or going from the town.

All neat cattle turned into the highway, except to work, to be driven from place to place, without stopping for any purpose. Appointed twenty-six men to assist in carrying out the law.

Some may think these details have been copied at too great length; but those who remember the panic caused by the cattle disease, at this time, would not sanction the omission of a full report of the action of the town on the subject. It was, for weeks, the subject of general anxiety. The alarm was universal. In addition to other precautions, in some cases, the fields were fenced several rods from the highway. That is, an inner fence was put up, to keep the cattle from getting near the road. But the alarm soon subsided.

1862, March meeting. Voted to request the Selectmen to draw an order upon the town Treasurer in favor of Hon. Giles H. Whitney, and present the same to him for his gentlemanly and faithful performance of

the duties of Moderator at the annual March meeting. The order was for \$10.

1863, April 27. The following was moved by E. Murdock, Jr. :

“Inasmuch as Esq. Whitney said to us at the commencement of this meeting, that it was probably the last March meeting that he should be with us, he would accept the office of Moderator, and has most faithfully filled that office, I now offer the following resolution : *Resolved*, that we now express our most sincere thanks to Esq. Whitney for the able, impartial and patient manner in which he has presided over this meeting, as also all others when called to the Chair, since he has been with us. And that the Selectmen be requested to pay him from the treasury of the town, the sum of twenty dollars, as a small compensation for his services.”

1864, April 25. Chose a committee to buy a new hearse—not to exceed \$500. The committee were John H. Fairbanks, G. B. Parker and Isaac M. Murdock.

1865, May 20. The Selectmen together with John H. Fairbanks, were instructed to purchase a suitable Safe for the use of the Town Clerk. The matter of Safes for the use of the Selectmen and Assessors, was left to the same committee.

## CHAPTER XIV.—EDUCATION SINCE THE YEAR 1800.

“Close in the hollow of yon hill

The district school-house wins the view,  
Where jabbering urchins 'gainst their will  
In swinging rows their tasks pursue.  
And there's the turf on which they play  
And tan their open-collared necks;  
And there's the brook where every day  
Their paper barks make sad shipwrecks  
Of little hopes, that now endure  
The coming world in miniature.”

REV. J. H. NICHOLS.

We resume the history of educational progress in the town since the opening of the nineteenth century. As in the former chapter on this subject, notice will be taken of the arrangement of districts, the building of school houses, the appointment of committees, the addition of new branches of learning, the increase of appropriations, and the general improvement of the schools.

The appropriation for schools, for the year 1800, was £80, or \$266, 66. There was a gradual increase in the sum set apart for the purpose of education.

On the 7th of March, 1801, the northwest school squadron was “allowed to appropriate their part of the school money towards building a school-house, if the squadron can agree to it.”

It is the testimony of tradition, supported by the written words of Dr. Whiton, that the cause of education received a great impulse in the beginning of the century, from EDWARD PAYSON, a son of Rev. Dr. Payson, of Rindge, N. H., and a student of Harvard. He taught at the Centre, and wrought with the same energy which afterwards made him so successful as a teacher, and so celebrated as a divine.

### SECTION 1.—THE LINES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

On the 6th of April, of this year, a committee of eight persons was

chosen "to draw the lines of the school districts." Dea. Moses Hale, James McElwain, Abel Jones, Ebenezer Sherwin, David Goodridge, Paul Raymond, Ezra Hyde and Jacob B. Woodbury were chosen. The vote was re-considered, and then the town re-considered the re-consideration. In other words, the committee remained. It is needless to give the exact boundaries, or "lines" of the districts, as they were sixty-four years since, but it may be interesting to some to know where the old school-houses were located. The committee reported on the 4th of May, and their arrangement, which was as follows, substantially, was accepted.

"1. East district. The school-house was where house No. 5 now stands. 2. South-east district. The house stood where that numbered 6 stood until the district was abolished. 3. South district. The house was near the present residence of Mr. Carter, south of the pond. 4. South-west district. The house was south of Denison pond, near the corner of the road by Miss Sylvia Howard's. It accommodated all the children of New Boston. 5. West district. The house was north of the junction of the roads west of the bridge and causeway, beyond the Caswell place; perhaps half way up to Levi Park's. 6. North-west district. The house was on the Fitzwilliam road, some forty rods north of the present No. 2 school-house. 7. North district. The house was ten or a dozen rods east of Jedediah Morse's farm-house,—the old Daniel Boynton place. 8. The middle district was the centre of the town. The west district included nearly all of what is now Waterville, reaching to Prentice hill."

In 1808, the appropriation for schools was five hundred dollars. This sum was continued till 1819, when five hundred and fifty dollars were granted.

Previous to the year 1809, the town chose annually a committee equal in number to the districts, whose duties were simply prudential. If a teacher was to be examined, or a school to be visited, the duty devolved on the Congregational minister. He was recognized by law as the proper person to perform this office, and being supported by the town, he made no charge for this service. He was expected, in addition to inspecting the schools, to give religious instruction, catechise the children in regard to the great truths of Christianity, and in general, to exert the best possible influence over the young.

On the 10th of April, this year, the town chose a committee of three, viz: Dr. William Parkhurst, Mr. Moses Hale, Jr., and Mr Aaron Green-

wood, "whose duty it shall be, with the assistance of the minister, *ex officio*, to inspect the schools at the commencement and termination." In the year 1811, this subject came up again in an article to see if the town "will choose a committee, whose duty it shall be, with the assistance of the minister," to examine teachers and inspect schools. The article was passed over.

On the first of April, it was voted that Robert Houghton have his school-money by his "giving bonds that it shall be laid out for the benefit of his children." He lived in the extreme north-east part of the town, as yet without a passable road to the school-house. The same privilege was allowed to him for several years.

This seems to be the proper place to notice one of the few natives of the town who have aspired to authorship. There are those who still remember SAMUEL LITCH, as one of their school-masters. He was a son of the Mr. Litch who took the lead here in the time of Shays. He was quite noted in this vicinity, as a teacher, and contributed his part to enlarge the circle of learning. In 1814, he published a work with the following title: "An Astronomical and Geographical Catechism, for the use of Common Schools and Private Persons; By Samuel Litch, Author of a Concise Treatise on Rhetoric," &c. The motto on the title page was in these words: "Geography is necessary to the understanding of that connection which this Globe has with the planetary system, and with all the wonderful works of God." The book was printed by Salmon Wilder, of Jaffrey, N. H. It was bound in board, and contained 118 pages, about two inches by four. The work is very comprehensive, treating of "universal, particular, natural, political and astronomical geography." It embraces a description of the "erth," and the "hevenly bodies." Winds, tides, the "atmosfere," magnetism, light, elipses and electricity, are among the topics. In like manner, we read of governments, religions, races, &c. The author defines an "iland," an "istmus," and an "oshun." He quotes the opinions of "wise filosofers," and in short, crowds a vast amount of interesting information into a narrow space. His "noledg" was fully up to the time when he wrote, though his spelling proved the need of Webster. He treats of topics which our scholars now find expanded into several volumes, but it is only fair to acknowledge that he deserves credit for his information and his method, as well as for his enterprise



in attempting to enlarge the field of study. His little book\* was doubtless the cause of much pleasure and improvement to the youth of Winchendon a half century since.

#### SECTION 2.—AN EFFORT TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT.

In 1816, the number of inhabitants had so increased in the region of Waterville, that John Kilburn and others wanted a new school district. A committee reported in favor of granting their request one year, "so far as receiving their school money is concerned."

A committee was appointed on the 25th of March, consisting of the following persons, viz : Daniel Henshaw, Esq., Dr. William H. Cutler, Jacob Woodbury, William Brown and Moses Hale, Esq., to see "what regulation is necessary in the schools." On the 6th of May, they offered the following report, which was doubtless from the pen of Esq. Henshaw.

"The education of the rising generation is an object of the first importance. On this will principally depend the morality of the public, the stability of our republican form of government, and the welfare and prosperity of the community. Wherever knowledge is generally diffused, the people are free from that liability to deception, imposition and error, which is sure to attend them where ignorance prevails. Morality and pure religion too are often found the companions of knowledge and correct education.

The advantage of schooling in this country, and especially in this Commonwealth, and the State of Connecticut, is said to be superior to that of any part of the world, and may be named among the greatest blessings of our common country. But the committee, while impressed with the importance of literature to personal happiness, and the welfare of the community, regret to state that there appears to have been less progress made in the schools in this town than is found in many other places. The causes of which appear to be various. Want of money to procure sufficient instruction may be considered one of the leading causes. The sum of money usually granted by the town, appears to be quite inadequate to the purpose. It requires some length of time for scholars to learn the rules of the school, the mode of instruction, and to become inured to study, before they make much improvement. Hence the latter part of the school is much the most valuable. There are four or five months in the cold season of the year, which to farmers are considered leisure

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\* The copy before me has been preserved by Mr. Luke Rice more than fifty years.

months, which cannot be spent by their children in any other way to so great advantage as in schooling. Your committee would suggest the propriety of raising money enough by the town for at least three months schooling in the winter or cold season of the year, and three months in the summer season in every school district.

Another important consideration is the instructor; and this ought to be a person not only of sufficient learning, but of correct morals. For in vain would it be for a master to attempt to instill into the minds of his pupils good morals, while his own life and conduct were at variance with his precepts. This latter important, we might say indispensable requisition, is too little attended to.

Setting up the master's board, to boarding him at a remote part of the district, is a barbarous practice and ought to be abandoned.

The mode of providing wood is a very great defect attending our schools. It is a vulgar, but very true maxim, that what is everybody's business, is nobody's. Where no one is compelled to do his duty, it is not always the case *that all do it*. On the contrary it often happens that many neglect it. The school suffers and sometimes stops for the want of wood. As our laws are silent on this subject, it is difficult to point out any method of providing wood by the individuals of a district. What seems the most eligible mode is to have the wood provided by an individual, who should bid off the same at the lowest price per cord, and have the same examined and measured by an inspector of wood to be chosen by the district.

To have the same kind of classical books, and one uniform mode of instruction in all the districts, would be a great improvement. The practice of scholars reading the Bible at least once a day, cannot be too highly recommended. A reverence for this holy volume, and a belief of the great truths it contains, cannot be too early inculcated and riveted in the tender minds of children. Indeed there is no book which contains such fine specimens of sublimity and eloquence.

The other books usually read in our schools are all good school books, but there appears to be too great a diversity. Were it necessary they would designate the following as the most approved, viz: Murray's English Grammar, Adams' Arithmetic, Scott's Lessons, Art of Reading, and Perry's Spelling Book.

The practice of distributing presents to the most distinguished scholars, has been proved to be a very powerful incentive to study; and to have every school visited regularly near the beginning and close, by the Selectmen, or by a committee chosen for the purpose, which would perhaps be preferable, would be an advantage. All which is respectfully submitted."

Several of these suggestions were acted upon by the town at once.

A committee of three was chosen to inspect the schools, for one year; viz: Daniel Henshaw, Esq., Dr. William H. Cutler, and Moses Hale, Esq. At the same time, it was voted that two dollars of the school money in each district be laid out by the committee to inspect the schools, as premiums to encourage the scholars in learning. It was also voted to recommend to the several school committee-men, to purchase the books recommended by the report of the committee for the regulation of schools.

The persons chosen to visit schools in 1817, were Jacob Woodbury, Joseph Jewett and Lowell Goodridge. It should be borne in mind, that the town also chose, annually, a prudential committee-man for each district.

In 1818, at the annual meeting, March 2, a committee of five was chosen "to regulate the school books, and inspect the schools, with the minister, the ensuing year." The committee were Horatio G. Newcomb, Esq., Samuel Prentice, Moses Hale, Esq., Daniel Henshaw, Esq., and Jacob Woodbury. At a meeting held on the 6th of April, the following step was taken.

"*Voted* that the school committee be directed to give a certificate in writing to the Selectmen, how much money they have laid out for schooling in each district, and how much they gave a month for their teachers, and what a week for board; and that the Selectmen shall not give them their orders till they produce said certificate. And that the Selectmen lay said certificate before the town at their annual March meeting, so that the town may know how their school money is expended."

In 1819, the town chose a committee,—H. G. Newcomb, Daniel Henshaw, Ezra Hyde, Jr., William H. Cutler, and Jacob Woodbury—to inspect the schools; and directed that they "attend with the minister to examine the masters and mistresses respecting their qualifications, when requested by the minister, and recommend such books into school as they think best."

The next year, 1820, the appropriation for schooling was cut down to \$500; the committee was partially changed, by putting Dr. Matthias Spalding and Lieut. Luke Parks, in the place of Messrs. Cutler and Hyde. Several families in what is now Spring Village district, were set off to the north district. These were William Tolman, James Martin, Seth Prouty, and Nathan Wood. As there was no road from their houses to the north school-house, until several years later, the chil-

dren must have gone "across lots." Probably there was a bridle or a cart path through the woods.

In 1821, the Waterville school district was formed. The families in it were those of Jacob Hale, Daniel Hale, Jonas Bradish, Jr., Nathaniel Hale, Jacob Hale, Jr., Asa Hyde, Benj. Fry, Alpheus Guy, Stephen Emery, Richard Thomas, John Newhall, Phinehas Ball, Asa Hale, Phinehas Ball, Jr., Thomas Kimball, William Robbins, Jr., Stillman Hale and Lewis Robbins.

It will not be necessary to give the names of the school committee from year to year. There was constant change in the names except in the case of the minister. The Rev. Eber L. Clark had now taken the place of Mr. Pillsbury. The gentlemen who were on the committee, from time to time, between 1820 and 1830, were, in addition to those already mentioned, Messrs. James M. Fuller, Thomas Bennet, Jr., Luke Heywood, George Alger, Moses M. Reed, William Brown, Reuben Hyde, Reuben Harris, Richard Stuart, William Tolman, Dr. Alvah Godding, Gilman Day, Jacob Wales, Foxwell N. Thomas and Elisha Murdock. Some of these were on the committee but a year or two; others, many years in succession. In the year 1826, the committee consisted of eleven; generally, of three or five.

In 1828, for the first time, the town omitted to choose the prudential committee, and voted that each school district choose their school agent in a district meeting appointed for that purpose. This practice of allowing the districts to choose agents to spend the town's money, when they were not accountable to the town, was continued for nearly forty years.

In 1829, Elisha Murdock was put on the school committee. With the exception of a few years when he was absent, teaching school, he was a member of the committee until he resigned in the year 1863. The appropriation for schooling, this year, was \$600. It was continued at the same figure for several years.

### SECTION 3.—NEW ARRANGEMENT OF DISTRICTS.

The population had increased to such a degree, and become so distributed, that a new arrangement of districts had become necessary. At an adjournment of the March meeting, April 4, 1831, it was voted that the Hale school district—No. 9, Waterville—have an equal share

of the school money with the other districts in town. This made nine districts. How the school-house was built, is not specified in the Records. The author has been informed that the house was built by subscription.

On the 11th of May, a committee of one man from each school district was chosen, "to see if any alterations in any of the school districts are necessary, and if any, what alterations, and report at the adjournment of this meeting." The committee were as follows, the number indicating the district to which the member belonged. 1. Col. Benjamin Adams; 7. Capt. Israel Whitcomb; 5. Joseph Whitney; 3. Capt. John Forristall; 10. Capt. Joseph Robbins; 2. Ephraim Murdock, Esq.; 9. Richard Stuart; 6. Jacob Woodbury; 8. Capt. George Alger. These numbers are given as they are known to the present generation, and printed on Whitney's map. There could not have been a No. 10, as there were but nine districts. This committee made a report, which the town did not adopt; but the matter could not rest, because there was need for more accommodation.

Accordingly in 1832 it was voted "to set off the inhabitants of the Spring Village, and others, into a separate school district, with the same privileges as the other districts in town." This made the number of districts equal to ten, and no alteration has since been made, except the formation of No. 11, and the discontinuance of No. 6. The final arrangement will be given on a subsequent page.

In 1833, the sum devoted to schooling was raised to \$700. The same sum was granted the next year, when it was voted, that the school committee,—Messrs. Clark, R. Harris and Elisha Murdock, "visit all the schools in town, and that they be paid a reasonable price for their services." This action was probably prompted by the Act of the Legislature, requiring that schools should be visited as often as once a month, and providing for their pay. From this time, school inspection became more efficient.

In 1834, June 12, a committee of one in each district was chosen "to examine the bounds of the several school districts, and ascertain whether the town is lawfully districted; if it is not, to district anew. This committee reported, and on the first of September, the districts were numbered as they have stood ever since, with the exception that No.

8 was, in 1839, divided into two, one of which was No. 11, and that No. 6 was discontinued in the year 1853. More correctly, it was suspended.

In 1837, it was voted to divide the school money, \$700, equally among the several school districts.

At a meeting held April 1, 1839, the prudential committee of the several school districts, were authorized to contract with teachers for their respective schools. The sum devoted to schools was \$900.

The following gentlemen served on the school committee more or less, from 1830 to 1840: Rev. E. L. Clark, D. O. Morton, Warren Cooper, and Richard Swazey, Doct. Fay, and Messrs. William Brown, Elisha Murdock, Reuben Harris, Levi Hancock, Warham Rand, and Luther Richardson.

#### SECTION 4.—NEW DIVISION OF SCHOOL MONEY.

At the annual meeting, March 2, 1840, the town voted to divide the money appropriated to schools, in the following manner: "Divide one-half of the money raised for the support of schools equally among the several districts in town, and the other half according to the number of scholars in each district, between the age of 4 and 21 years. The next year it was changed to 4 and 16 years, and the scholars were to be numbered on the first of May, by the joint action of the school and prudential committees. This year \$1000 were appropriated for schools. The same sum was continued a few subsequent years.

In 1844, \$1100 were granted for education. At the March meeting, the question of dividing the money came up again, when a committee of one from each of the eleven school districts was chosen "to investigate the subject of the division of the school money; said committee to report at the adjournment of this meeting. Chose the following persons from the districts as they are numbered: 1. Benjamin Wilder; 2. Elisha Murdock; 3. Seth Tucker, Jr.; 4. Joseph Watson; 5. Ebenezer Butler; 6. Jacob Woodbury; 7. William Brown; 8. Luke Rice; 9. Moses Hancock; 10. Edward Loud; 11. Joel Sibley. At a meeting on the 19th of March, remarks were heard from several members of the committee. The matter was adjourned to the first of April, when the following Report was presented. It was mainly prepared by Messrs. Brown and Murdock, who had served on the school committee

many years. It is given here, although the plan is now superseded, because it illustrates the character of the town. The design was to give each child in the town an equal chance, and it certainly was as fair an arrangement as ever came under the notice of the writer. By it, the districts that were favored with the greatest pecuniary ability, helped the weaker districts to enjoy equal school privileges. The Report was read, when the town, on the 16th of April, voted to adopt it, as follows :

“ A portion of your committee have attended to the duty assigned them, and agreed upon the following Report.

That the money raised by the town for the support of schools, be divided among the several districts according to the number of scholars, in the manner following, viz :

That each district numbering less than 40 scholars, be allowed to draw for 45 scholars.

That each school district numbering between 40 and 50 scholars, be allowed to draw for 50 scholars.

That each school district numbering from 50 to 90 scholars, draw for their whole number.

That each school district numbering over 90 scholars, draw for 90 scholars only, unless their number exceeds 100 scholars, in which case they shall draw for their whole number ; and that the amount received from the Massachusetts School Fund, be divided equally among the several school districts as formerly.”

The town then voted to divide the school money agreeable to the report of the committee. This arrangement, with slight modifications, remained till the districts were abolished.

At a meeting held on the first of April, an effort to divide the second district, and call the new one No. 12, was defeated. This proposal was renewed on the 16th, and again defeated. The people had begun to get an idea of graded schools.

In 1846, the town granted \$1200 for schools, besides the sum received from the State. In 1848, the appropriation for schools was \$1500. In 1849, the sum of \$15, to help district No. 4 defray their expense for a school district library, was granted.

The following were on the committee between 1840 and 1850. Rev. Messrs. Rice, Dunn, Pettee, Marvin, Tracy, Bullard, and Messrs. Murdock, Richardson, Godding, Brown, Moses Hancock, Emerson Whitney, John C. Eddy, Abel E. Parks, and Henry Perley. Some were chosen for a single year, and others continuously.

The subject of abolishing the districts was referred to a committee, who reported to a meeting held on the 13th of March, 1852, "1, that, in their opinion, it is not expedient to alter the limits of districts No. 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11; 2, that No. 6 should be abolished, and its inhabitants should be set to 1, 5 and 7." The grant for schools was cut down to \$1400.

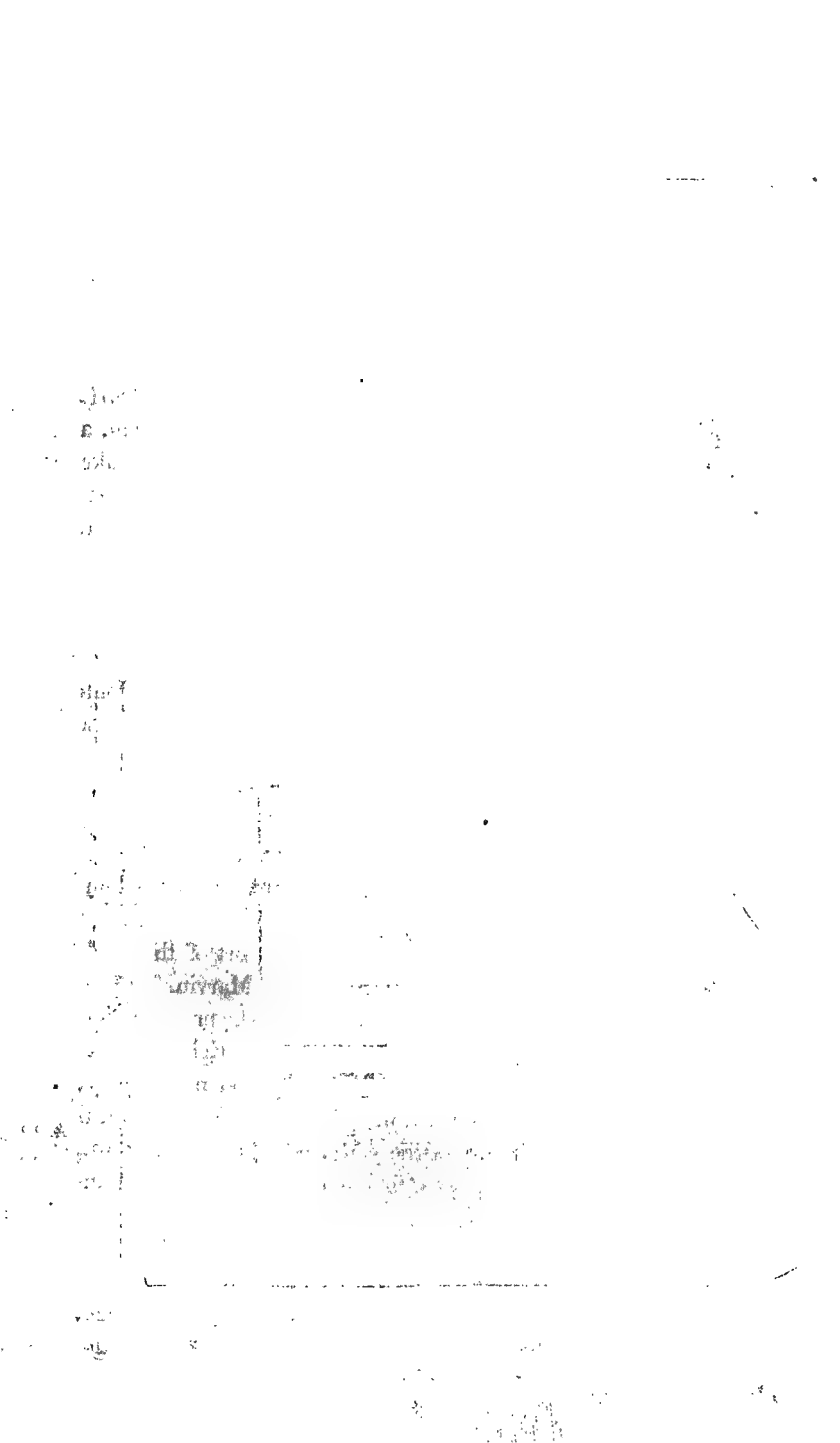
#### SECTION 5.—HIGH SCHOOL.

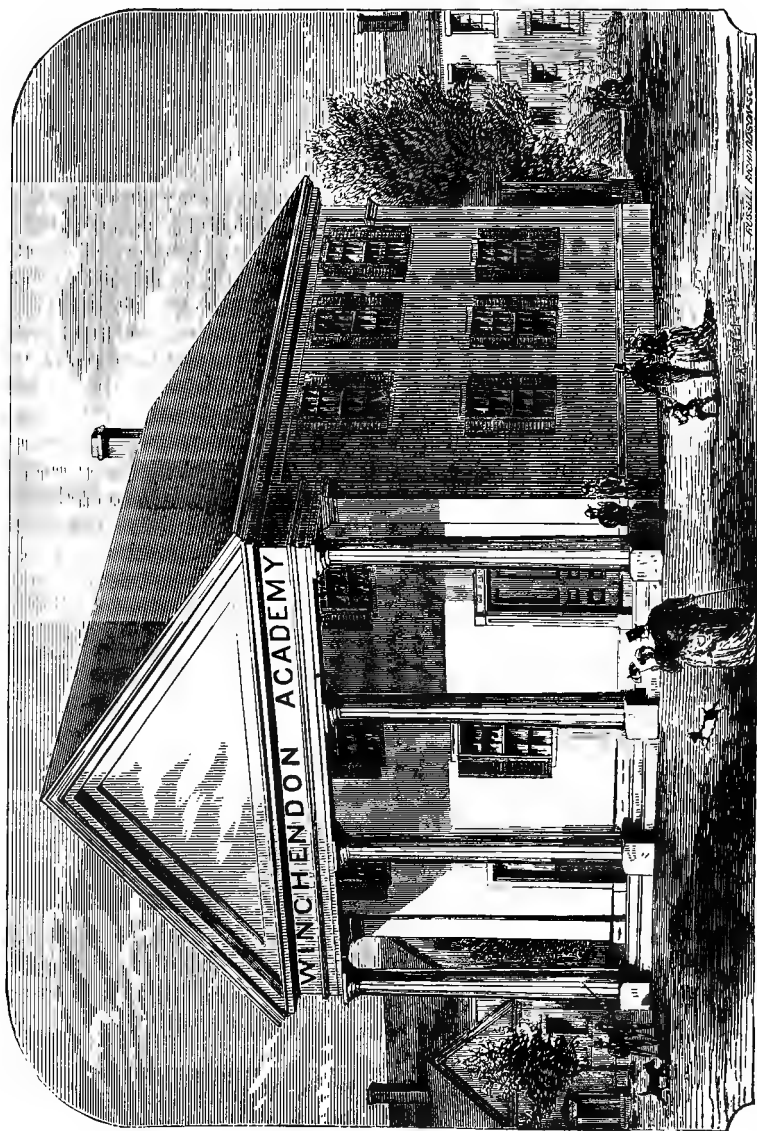
The first distinct movement for a High School was made in 1851, when, on the 10th of November, on motion of Rev. A. P. Marvin, a committee of fifteen, one at least in each district, was raised, to take the subject of a High School into consideration. The committee consisted of the following persons. Rev. John Storrs, Rev. A. P. Marvin, Messrs. Edward Loud, Stillman Hale, Amos Wheeler, B. O. Tyler, Elisha Beaman, Joseph White, Ebenezer Butler, Jacob Woodbury, William Brown, C. C. Alger, Moses Hancock, Levi Parks and Joel Sibley. The committee reported on the 31st of January, 1852. The Report on the subject of a High School, prepared mainly by Rev. John Storrs, was long and interesting. No action was taken by the town at this meeting.

It was doubted by some whether there were families enough in the town to lay it under obligation, by law, to support a High School. In order to settle this point, one of the committee went over the town carefully, and found that the families numbered considerably over five hundred. This fact was brought before the town, at the proper time.

At a meeting on the 26th of May, 1852, the Report of the High School committee, and a substitute presented by Mr. Marvin, were rejected, and the matter was indefinitely postponed. But the project would not stay postponed, and it came up again on this wise. Ephraim Murdock, Esq., had erected a building called the Winchendon Academy, in the year 1843, which had been used, without charge, for academical purposes, about ten years. Many of the youth belonging to the town, and quite a number from other places, had here enjoyed good advantages for mental improvement. The first teacher, under whom the building began to be used as an Academy, in the autumn of 1843, was Mr. John G. Giles, a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was followed, in succeeding years, by Mr. Levi O. Stevens, of Burlington College, Mr. Stephen F. Kellogg and Mr. Charles L. Brace, of Yale College,







Established in 1843.

and Mr. A. H. Merriam, of Dartmouth College. After him, came the Rev. Mr. Willmarth, an accurate scholar, in the modern as well as ancient languages. Mr. Kellogg is a prominent lawyer and public man in Connecticut. Mr. Brace has a wide reputation as an author and philanthropist. All were faithful to their duties. In 1848, Mr. Hyde wrote as follows of the Academy, in his History.

“The benefits of the institution are already manifest. Many hundreds, of both sexes, have already derived great advantage from it; and the desire for a higher and more thorough education has been excited in many a youthful breast. If it shall be sustained according to its praiseworthy design, it will be the source of manifold blessings to the community.”

A view of the Academy may be seen on another page. It is 30 by 40 feet, and two stories in height. A boarding house was also erected, to be for the convenience of scholars from other places. The cost of both buildings was between three and four thousand dollars.

The design of Mr. Murdock was liberal and praiseworthy. When the law was passed requiring towns containing five hundred families, or twenty-five hundred inhabitants, to support a High School, it was seen that an Academy would not be needed; whereupon Mr. Murdock inserted a provision in his will, by which the Academy building was left to the town of Winchendon, on condition that it should be used for educational purposes.

In view of this will, the testator having departed this life, a committee of five was appointed on the 30th of April, 1853, “to look into the will of E. Murdock, Esq., respecting the Winchendon Academy.” They reported on the 25th of May, when it was voted “to accept and adopt the proposition made by Ephraim Murdock, Esq., the testator, in his will, and establish a school.” It was moved to reconsider this vote; but the motion was negatived. The way was now prepared for the establishment of a High School, and accordingly, on the 3d of August, the town, acting on an article “to see if the town will establish and maintain a High School,” it was voted “that the school committee be instructed to procure a teacher in order to commence a term of school in the spring.” At the annual meeting, March 6, 1854, upon motion, it was voted to appropriate \$125, for supporting the spring term of the High School, to be expended by the school committee. At this time, the first term of the school was in session, and since that date, the children of

the town have had the advantage of a good High School without interruption. In furtherance of this object, a vote was passed on the 3d of April, as follows :

“ To provide a High School for all the children of the town thirteen years of age, and upwards, for a term of ten weeks, commencing in September, and another term of ten weeks, commencing not far from the first of December, of the present year. Provided, that if those scholars who are of the requisite age, are not numerous enough to fill the school, younger children may be admitted at the discretion of the committee.”

A grant of \$200 was made for the support of the High School. It was then voted that a committee of eleven, (one from each of the schools in the town,) in addition to the school committee, be appointed to mature a town school system, with all necessary details. The school committee were Messrs. A. P. Marvin, Elisha Murdock and Henry Perley. The members from the districts were as follows : 1. John Storrs ; 2. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., and Alvah Godding ; 3. Seth Tucker, Jr., 4. Maynard Partridge ; 5. Ebenezer Butler ; 7. Lincoln Balcom ; 8. C. C. Alger ; 9. Ezra Porter ; 10. Reuben Harris ; 11. Minot Patch. It was also voted “ That \$75 be taken from No. 2, \$20 from No. 3, and \$20 from No. 9, and appropriated for the support of the High School.” This was done because these three districts, being contiguous to the High School, derived the greatest advantage from it. At the same meeting, Rev. John Storrs and B. O. Tyler, Esq., were added to the school committee.

The enlightened liberality of Esq. Murdock deserved grateful recognition from the town, whereupon, on motion of the chairman of the school committee, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

“ Whereas, the late Ephraim Murdock, Esq., in his last will and testament, bequeathed to the town the building known as the “ Winchendon Academy,” in order that it might be used for a High School for the benefit of all the children of the town, of suitable age and qualifications, therefore,

*Resolved*, in full town meeting, that the aforesaid bequest be and is hereby received, according to the intention in which it was made, to be used in accordance with the intention of the testator.

*Resolved*, that the late Ephraim Murdock, Esq., by his far-sighted liber-

ality and generosity, as evinced in making the aforesaid bequest, merits the grateful respect and remembrance of the inhabitants of this town."

#### SECTION 6.—TOWN SCHOOL SYSTEM.

On the 13th of November, the committee appointed to mature a town school system, reported the following plan, which was adopted.

"1. *Resolved*, that henceforth the school system of this town, shall consist of the usual district schools, and a High School.

2. That the High School shall be provided with teachers competent to give instruction in the languages, as well as in the higher branches of an English education.

3. That the High School, as well as the district schools, shall be for the benefit of the children and youth of the town exclusively; excepting at such times as the school committee shall think it for the interest of the school to admit scholars from other places. And at such times, they shall have the power to do so.

4. That the interests of education require the appropriation of \$1800 for the support of the schools during the ensuing year.

5. That \$600, more or less, ought to be appropriated for the support of the High School.

6. That the remainder, with the money from the State School Fund, be applied for the support of the district schools.

7. That the division of money shall be according to the existing plan, with this exception, viz: that \$50 be taken from district No. 2, \$10 from No. 3, and \$20 from No. 4, and divided among the other districts equally."

The reason for this last provision was this. Districts 2 and 3 being near the High school, their children derived the greatest benefit from it; while No. 4, or Spring Village, was enabled to keep its school in session several weeks longer than the other districts, because it drew money for sixty or seventy scholars. It was only fair to deduct something from its share, according to the old plan.

In August, 1853, the Selectmen were directed to paint the Academy building, and put it in good repair. Also, to fence in and repair around the Academy.

At the March meeting, in 1855, the town granted \$1800 for education, according to the above recommendation. At this meeting there was much excitement about the school committee. Two of the committee, Messrs. Murdock and Marvin, were especially obnoxious be-

cause they had not fallen in with the measures of the "American," or "Know-nothing" party, and declined to require the children of Roman Catholic families to read the Protestant version of the Bible, or be excluded from the schools. They followed a course which was afterwards substantially adopted by the Legislature, and has been in operation ever since, with the general approbation of the people of the State. At the time, however, the two members of the committee above named, were subject to much unpleasant censure, and even odium. At the election, the following gentlemen were chosen, viz: Rev. Silas Piper, Rev. A. Baldwin, E. S. Merrill and Bethuel Ellis, Esqrs. Mr. Murdock was re-elected by a small majority. He and Mr. Ellis declined to serve. Whereupon the town, after considerable discussion in open meeting and privately, re-elected Messrs. Murdock and Marvin, and the excitement subsided. The affair is referred to here, because it exhibits a phase of the times.

In 1858, \$2000 were granted for schools; of which \$575 were for the High School. It was also voted that the prudential committee should not employ the school teachers.

In 1859, the grant for schools was raised to \$2200, and the committee were instructed to build a wood-house and privy, for the use of the High School. Messrs. A. W. Buttrick, and George B. Raymond were added to the committee.

The following persons were on the committee between 1850 and 1860: Rev. Messrs. John Storrs, A. Baldwin, Silas Piper, B. F. Clarke, T. H. Dorr, and A. P. Marvin, and Messrs. Elisha Murdock, Edwin S. Merrill, D. L. Morrill, and Isaac M. Murdock, besides a few others mentioned in preceding pages.

The grant for schools in the years 1860 and 1861, was the same as in the preceding year, \$2200. In 1862, the second year of the war, when many were out of employment, and money was scarce, the appropriation was reduced to \$1600, but as wages were somewhat lower than usual, the schools, including the High School, were kept in session nearly as long as usual.

In the spring of 1863, Mr. Murdock, on account of illness, resigned his office as a member of the school committee. No man since the incorporation of the town, unless possibly Rev. Joseph Brown, had ever served so long as a member of the committee; none had ever been more faithful in the performance of duty, or felt a deeper interest in the

welfare of the young. It was fitting, therefore, that the town should depart from its usual course so far as to pass a resolution expressive of its sense of Mr. Murdock's services. At a meeting held on the 6th of April, his resignation having been reluctantly accepted, on motion of one of his colleagues, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, that the thanks of the town be rendered to the Hon. Elisha Murdock, for his faithful and acceptable services as a member of the school committee during the term of twenty-six years; and that this vote be entered upon the records by the town clerk."

The mover offered a few remarks, in which he said, in substance, that Mr. Murdock deserved the thanks of the town for his long-continued and faithful service as a member of the school committee. He had been associated with him about nineteen years, and in all that time there had not been a word, and probably not a thought, of difference between them, in relation to the schools. Mr. Murdock was a man of cautious but independent mind, accustomed to think for himself, and so was a valuable associate. Though a man of large business, which engrossed his time and periled his health, no occasion could be recalled when he failed to meet any exigency which required his attention. Besides visiting the schools, and examining teachers, as the law required, he was ever ready to leave his business, at a moment's notice, if there were trouble in any school, however remote, which demanded his presence. He shirked no responsibility, and never failed to sustain his associates when exposed to undeserved censure. He loved the children, set them a good example, and without ostentation or pretence, did much to promote their happiness and prosperity. Those who have served with him, have learned to esteem him more and more, and feel that his resignation will be a great loss to them, and to the town.

The grant for schools in 1863, was raised to \$1800, as the people began to learn how to bear the burdens of the war. In 1864, the sum was \$2200. The next year, \$2500 were granted. In 1866, the grant was \$3000, and in 1867, it was raised to \$3500, and in 1868, to \$3800.

#### SECTION 7.—THE DISTRICT SYSTEM ABOLISHED.

The question of abolishing the districts had been occasionally referred to in town meetings, previous to the year 1865, but it had never been pressed upon the public attention. It now came up for inquiry,

and at the annual meeting, March 6, a committee was appointed to consider and report on the subject. On the 20th of May, they reported, when the subject was re-committed. At a meeting on the 3d of June, the committee reported against the measure, and the town voted not to do away with the district system. On the 5th of March, 1866, the Selectmen were authorized "to divide the scholars in No. 8, between Nos. 7 and 11, as convenience requires."

At a meeting on the 7th of May, it was voted that a committee be appointed "to consider the subject of abolishing the school districts, or of re-districting the town, and report at an adjourned meeting." Many were by this time convinced that not more than nine districts were needed, and that all above that number, involved a needless waste of money. It was voted that the committee consist of the school committee, viz: A. P. Marvin, E. S. Merrill, and George A. Litchfield, and one from each district, to be nominated by the chair. The following were chosen: Charles J. Rice, Luke Hale, H. O. Clark, N. D. White, Reuben Bemis, Paul Raymond, Jr., C. C. Alger, William L. Woodcock, Levi N. Parks and William Sibley.

This committee reported in favor of abolishing the districts, to a meeting held on the 11th of June. The number present was not large, and those who came together, were generally opposed to any change. The committee recommended that the town should buy the school-houses, and should divide the town, for the present, into nine sections, in which schools should be maintained. The plan was advocated by Rev. A. P. Marvin, and opposed by Messrs. Reuben Harris and Grover S. Whitney. The vote was nearly a unit in the negative. But the subject was now fairly before the public. In the course of the ensuing winter, Mr. Northrop, the agent of the Board of Education, addressed the citizens on the general subject of education, on which occasion he spoke of the benefits which would flow from the abandonment of the districts, and from the town's resuming its ancient entire control of the schools.

At the annual meeting, March 4, 1867, the proposal was again brought forward. Mr. Orlando Mason moved that "we do abolish the school districts." The discussion was opened by the chairman of the school committee, and on the next day was continued by several speakers; after which the motion was carried by the following vote: yeas, 77; nays, 29.



This having been done, the school committee was enlarged to the number of twelve. Messrs. Marvin and Merrill held over; Mr. Litchfield was re-elected; and the following gentlemen were added, viz: Messrs. Giles H. Whitney, Charles J. Rice, Nelson D. White, William Woodcock, Windsor N. White, George Gregory, Charles A. Loud, Ira Russell, M. D., and Rev. Charles Wheeler. The committee were then instructed to employ three persons from out of town, to appraise the property of the old school districts. They were further "to meet a committee of three from each of the school districts, to see what alterations, repairs, or new houses, or changes of location, may be needed, if any, and the probable cost of the same, and report to an adjourned meeting." It was next voted, "that the Selectmen be requested to take possession of the school-houses and other property of the school districts, forthwith." The division of the school money was left to the school committee.

The town, on the first of April, voted to accept the report of the appraisers selected by the school committee to appraise the several school-houses in the town, which was as follows:

"We the undersigned, Appraisers, appointed under the direction of the town of Winchendon, to appraise the value of the school-houses, land, apparatus and other property owned and used for school purposes, do appraise the value of the school-houses, &c., in said districts.

|        |       |        |       |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| No. 1, | \$80. | No. 7, | \$80. |
| " 2,   | 800.  | " 8,   | 175.  |
| " 3,   | 4750. | " 9,   | 300.  |
| " 4,   | 000.* | " 10,  | 475.  |
| " 5,   | 200.  | " 11,  | 200.  |

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GILMAN DAY,  
OHIO WHITNEY, JR.,  
JOHN KING.

Winchendon.

#### SECTION 8.—NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.

The same meeting, March 6, 1865, which raised the committee on districts, chose another committee, of five persons, to consider the propriety of erecting a new school-house, for the use of the town, to be lo-

\* The house in this district is the property of the Nelson Manufacturing Co.

cated in the Village. This matter was held in abeyance until the districts were abolished, except so far as obtaining a lot of land was concerned. In relation to this matter, the committee made a report on the 11th of June, 1866, as follows: in "regard to the expense of preparing the E. Murdock, Jr. lot."

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| " Necessary ditches, 200 rods,   | \$500        |
| Taking out stones and roots, ploughing, leveling, and filling ditches, | 1100         |
| Manure,  | 200          |
| Dig. cellar and wharfing,  | 500          |
| Underpinning,  | 200          |
| Making road by C. W. Newman's,   | 200          |
| Total,   | <hr/> \$2700 |

SETH TUCKER,  
WILLIAM BROWN,  
J. H. FAIRBANKS,  
BETHUEL ELLIS."

At a meeting, on the 2d of July, 1866, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee, viz: Bethuel Ellis, William L. Woodcock, William Beaman, Orlando Mason, and George B. Raymond, to examine the Academy, fence and yard, and into the conditions on which the town came into possession of the same. Also, whether it is best to repair the Academy, or erect a new one, or build on any other site." On the 7th of July this committee made a report. In relation to the conditions of the gift of the Academy, they reported as follows:

"The town came in possession of the property in the following manner. In the last will and testament of the late Ephraim Murdock, Esq., is the following item: 'I hereby order that the Academy building in said Winchendon, and the ground enclosed around said building, be used and occupied for a school, free of rent, so long as the town, or Trustees of said Academy, shall cause a good school to be kept therein, and the building, and fence around the enclosure, to be kept in good repair; and upon the failure of the town of Winchendon, or the Trustees of said Academy, to perform these conditions, then said Academy building and land to revert to my heirs. This clause to be construed reasonably; a continued neglect in the particulars only to work a forfeiture.'"

The committee considered the house entirely inadequate for a High School, but did not agree on any special recommendation. Messrs. O.





New School House.

Mason, B. D. Whitney and G. B. Raymond were chosen a committee to examine and get up a plan for a High School building. On motion of Rev. George A. Litchfield, it was voted "that the town purchase three and three-quarters acres of land recently offered by E. Murdock, Jr., for \$1000, for High School purposes." The meeting was then adjourned to August 4, at which time there were not persons enough present to warrant the clerk in calling the meeting to order, he, in the words of the Records, "considering the meeting dead for want of friends." At the annual meeting, March 5, 1867, the committee chosen by the town at a meeting held on the 15th day of November, 1866, to confer with E. Murdock, Jr., in regard to giving a title to the property referred to by the vote of the town, July 20, 1866, reported in these words :

"They have had a conference with Capt. Murdock, as contemplated by vote of the town, and obtained from him the following proposition, to wit: 'that the town shall have a warranty deed of the land referred to by vote of the town, July 20, 1866, for school purposes, or for a public Common, and for no other, together with 1000 loads of gravel for filling up the same, for \$1000; and when suitable High School buildings, or any other public school buildings are erected on the land; or failing to erect such buildings, shall fit up such lands as a public Common, then *all* restrictions as to future use of the property, and all forfeiture on account of other use of the same shall be null and void.' "

O. MASON,  
B. ELLIS,  
S. TUCKER.

Then, on motion of E. Butler, it was voted that the "Selectmen be authorized to take a deed of the land, and pay for the same." At an adjourned meeting, April 15, it was voted to build the school-houses needed in the former districts No. 1 and 9, of brick, and finally the question of a new school-house in the Village was settled by authorizing the building committee, viz: Nelson D. White, J. B. Sawyer, Charles A. Loud, John M. Forristall and Sidney Fairbank, to erect a building for school purposes, on the land purchased of E. Murdock, Jr., according to the plan which was presented. The same committee was authorized to erect a new school-house in Waterville, and another at the Centre.

#### SECTION 10.—PROGRESS.

Such is a succinct account of the measures taken by the town for the

education of the children and youth within her borders, since the beginning of the century. It is an honorable record, showing that a deep interest has been felt, from year to year, throughout the whole period, in regard to the most important matter which can be acted upon by a town, in its municipal capacity. The advance in appropriations of money has more than kept pace with the growing number of scholars, and the increasing wealth of the town. The sum granted in the year 1800, was \$266.66; in 1868, \$3,800.00.

Has there been corresponding improvement in the schools? In regard to all the material means and apparatus of education, there has been great advancement. The school-houses, poor as some of them are now, are vastly superior to those where the fathers and mothers of the town learned the rudiments of education. In place of the ancient benches extending round the room, so high that the feet of the younger scholars could not reach the floor, our children have convenient desks and seats, or chairs, graduated to their size. There has been an entire change, and a great improvement in school-books, maps and blackboards. These improvements the most unyielding sticklers for old times cannot deny.

But the question returns, are the schools better than they were? Do our children receive a better education than did their predecessors? The answer must be in the affirmative. The children attend school more weeks each year; they attend to more branches of study; and they are more proficient, generally, in those to which they give their attention. Sixty or seventy years ago, besides reading, spelling and writing, arithmetic was the great study. By degrees, some few took up the study of geography, with the aid of Morse. At last, some more enterprising than the majority, ventured upon the intricacies of English grammar, under the lead of Alexander, and afterwards of Lindley Murray. But a few weeks devoted to these studies in the winter, could not enable the scholars to make much progress. "The first winter of this century," says Dr. Whiton, "that of 1800-1, an excellent school was taught at the Centre, by a son of Rev. Dr. Payson, of Rindge, EDWARD PAYSON, then a member of Cambridge College; afterwards the distinguished Rev. Dr. Payson, of Portland, a name known and honored on both sides the Atlantic. I think his school gave a new impulse to educational interests, and the next twenty years were years

of advance." The next impulse was probably given in 1816, when the committee whose report has been copied at length in preceding pages, entered on their labors. There was a rising interest in the improvement of our schools years before the late Hon. Horace Mann was chosen Secretary of the Board of Education. Such men as the Hon. John G. Carter, of Lancaster, and his compeers, did much to awaken attention to the defects in our system of education, and thus the way was prepared for the mighty work accomplished by Mr. Mann and his successors. The schools of Winchendon participated in the general advancement.

The writer can speak from personal knowledge in regard to the schools in this town since the beginning of 1844. At that time the schools were good. They were under the care of excellent teachers. There were differences, of course ; some teachers were superior to others ; but generally they were worthy of their high vocation. Many of these are still held in grateful remembrance by their pupils, and in high esteem by the committee who visited their schools. The advancement since that time is due in part to some improvement in books and apparatus, as well as in the seats of the scholars in a majority of the school houses ; but the chief advancement is due to these four causes. First, the Normal Schools have increased the efficiency of teachers, not only those who have attended, but others ; secondly, more time is improved in attending school each year ; thirdly, several of our schools are graded, and thus made doubly valuable ; and lastly, the High School has been a great incentive to study and good behavior. The hope of being admitted there has been a stimulus felt in every district, and by hundreds of our youth. Thus all the schools have been improved, while the High School itself has been the means of giving many an excellent education, and preparing others for higher institutions of learning. The standard of education is higher than ever before ; and doubtless the schools in this town will partake of all improvements enjoyed by other places, in the generations to come.

#### NAMES OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The names of the Principals and Assistants who have had charge of the High School since its opening in the year 1853, are here given, in the order of their service.

## PRINCIPALS.

|          |                          |   |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| 1854,    | Mr. A. E. Upton.         | } |
| 1855,    | Mr. Wm. W. Godding,      |   |
|          | Mr. J. J. Milson.        |   |
| 1856,    | Mr. D. C. Chamberlain,   |   |
|          | Miss Lucy A. Rice,       | } |
|          | Mr. Wm. W. Godding.      |   |
| 1857,    | Mr. S. Hardy,            | } |
|          | Mr. D. C. Chamberlain.   |   |
| 1858-65, | Mr. D. C. Chamberlain.   |   |
| 1865-6,  | Mr. Frank Brackett.      |   |
| 1866,    | Mr. A. S. Howe.          |   |
| 1867,    | Mr. J. F. Fielden.       | } |
|          | Rev. Milan H. Hitchcock. |   |
| 1867-8,  | Mr. John K. Browne.      |   |

## ASSISTANTS.

|         |                          |   |
|---------|--------------------------|---|
| 1854,   | Miss Ellen R. Murdock.   |   |
| 1855,   | Miss Ellen R. Murdock.   |   |
| 1856,   | Miss Mary E. Whitney,    | } |
|         | Miss Ellen R. Murdock.   |   |
| 1864,   | Miss Anstriss Weston,    | } |
|         | Miss Emily R. Pitkin.    |   |
| 1865,   | Miss Maria D. Newton.    |   |
| 1865-6, | Miss Ursula E. Clark.    |   |
| 1866,   | Mrs. A. S. Howe.         |   |
| 1867,   | Miss M. D. Newton.       |   |
| 1867-8, | Miss Caroline E. Marvin. |   |

## SCHOOL BOOKS.

It may be a matter of interest to those who come after us, to know what books were used in the schools of this town, by the children of this generation. For their information, a list is here given.

ENGLISH BRANCHES.—The Bible; Webster's Dictionary; Spelling,—Sargent's Pronouncing Speller; Series of Readers,—Willson; Geography,—Guyot's for the High School, and Warren's for the other schools; Arithmetic,—Greenleaf's Series; Grammar,—Wells; History,—Goodrich; Physiology,—Cutter; Natural Philosophy,—Loomis' Olmstead; Mental Philosophy,—Watts and Abercrombie; Composition,—Quackenboss; Physical Geography,—Fitch and Colton; Writing Books,—Payson and Dunton; Algebra,—Greenleaf; Geometry,—Davies' Legendre; Chemistry; Surveying; Book-keeping; Drawing.

LATIN.—Grammar,—Andrews and Stoddard; Lexicon,—Andrews; Lessons,—Andrews; Latin Reader,—Andrews; Cornelius Nepos; Virgil; Cicero; Caesar; Sallust.

GREEK.—Grammar,—Crosby; Lexicon,—Donnegan; Lessons,—Crosby; Greek Reader; Greek Testament; Anabasis; Iliad.

FRENCH.—Fasquelle's Course.

In conclusion, the reader who may desire a more full statement of the condition and progress of our schools, during the last twelve or fifteen years, can consult the printed Reports of the School Committee, deposited in the office of the town clerk, and prior to this date, the Reports as copied into the Records.



## CHAPTER XV.—ROADS AND BRIDGES.

“And round and round, over valley and hill,  
Old roads winding as old roads will,  
Here to a ferry and there to a mill.”

WHITTIER.

## SECTION 1.—THE ROADS BOUNDED AND STRAIGHTENED.

In continuing the history of Roads and Bridges in the town, it is not designed to give a minute account of every slight change and improvement, but such a general statement of facts as will enable the reader to learn the progress of the town in respect to local and through travel. Roads mark the progress of a people, and contribute greatly to their wealth and civilization; and when good roads are completed, they are a rich legacy to succeeding generations.

Up to this time, the people had been opening bridle-paths and cart-roads from their own homes to their neighbors, and changing the location of them from time to time, as convenience required. The same process was pursued in the first year or two of this century. Thus a road was accepted for Charles Chase, April 6, 1801, extending from where Mr. Stephen Weston lives, northerly towards the State line. On the 4th of May it was voted to alter Robert Bradish's road, and also Lieut. Isaac Noyes' road. The time had now come for the adoption of some system of roads, and accordingly a committee was appointed “to ascertain the bounds of the roads in the town; also to straighten said roads.” The gentlemen chosen were Dea. Moses Hale, Lieut. Paul Raymond, and Capt. Thomas Graton. These men were well qualified for the work. Dea. Hale was a surveyor; Lieut. Raymond had a talent for road and bridge making, and Capt. Graton had experience in the same line.

On the 5th of January, 1802, the town accepted the road from Stephen Weston's to Joseph Robbins', thus opening a means of communication from Robbinsville to Tallow Hill. At the same time, the town heard the Report of the committee chosen to ascertain the bounds of

the roads, and straighten them. Each road in the report was read and put to vote separately, and after the reading of them, their report was accepted by said town, excepting the last mentioned road, namely, the road from Col. Woodbury's to the county road leading from Esq. Crosby's to Gardner. The substance of the report is given below; partly in the language of the committee. By following this report carefully, the roads as they were in 1802 may be found on the map. The names of present inhabitants is sometimes substituted for those mentioned by the committee.

#### REPORT.

“The committee chosen by the town of Winchendon, to straighten and renew the bounds of the roads in said town, have attended that service, and make the following report, which is submitted to the town for their consideration.

WINCHENDON, January 2, 1802.

1. A road from Ashburnham to Royalston, 7 13-32 miles from the Ashburnham line near Isaac Stimson's house—by the Estey school-house, and the Common, and so on to Royalston.

2. A road from Templeton road near Eliphalet Goodridge, to the county road by Robert Bradish, 402 rods, or 1 mile and 82 rods.

3. A road from the southwest school-house, by Mr. C. C. Alger's, Capt. Alger's and M. M. Reed's to Templeton road, 960 rods, or 3 miles and 37 rods.

4. A road from a spot north of Jonathan Evans' house, by Isaac Grout's to the road near Timothy Hancock's. That is, from the Tyler Raymond place south to the new county road, 1 1-2 miles and 38 rods.

5. A road from the last mentioned road, beginning 3 rods south of Isaac Grout's, going by Lt. Benjamin Rice's, westerly to the road by C. C. Alger's, 222 rods, or 1-2 mile and 62 rods.

6. A road from the notch of the road south of the bridge on Mr. Whitney's mill pond to the south side of the Common, 457 rods, or 1 1-4 miles and 57 rods.\*

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\* This must have been the distance by the *original* road from the mill to the south end of the Common. By three several surveys, in more recent times, the distance from the bridge to the meeting-house built in 1792, is just about a mile. This would make the distance from the mill to the south end of the Common, about one mile and twenty rods. Whitney, in making up his map, followed the old survey, and gives the distance as one mile and one hundred and thirty-seven rods, nearly, as may be seen by applying his scale to his map, yet the present road had been in use at least thirty years before his map was published.

How can we account for the distance as given in the old surveys? In this way. There are traces of old roads around and over the central hill, which

7. A road from Major Sylvester's house by Dea. Samuel Prentice's to Daniel Farrar's, on the Royalston road, 17-8 miles and 32 rods.

8. A road from the above road, starting at Waterville, by Mr. Page's, to the bridge over Miller's river, 16 rods, and thence by Ezra Hyde's and Mr. Winch's to the Fitzwilliam road; that is, the old road from Waterville to Winchendon Village, 307 rods.

9. A road from Rindge line by Benjamin May's, now Daniel May's, to the Fitzwilliam road, not far from where Mr. Belknap now lives, 266 rods, or 6 furlongs, and 26 rods.

10. A road from the Templeton road a few rods north of Abel Wilder's barn, or a little west of the poor-house, by the Tuttle and Bigelow farms, to the county road from Winchendon to Gardner, 582 rods, or 1 3-4 miles and 22 rods.

11. A road from the before-mentioned road, going by Mr. Vose's, Nathan Knight's, and Thomas Greenwood's to the corner where Capt. Levi Greenwood formerly lived, 582 rods, or 1 3-4 miles and 22 rods.

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meet the case, and which verify the remark made by the aged Mrs. Daniel Boynton before her death, that when she came to town, she "went to meeting over the top of the hill." About half way from the old Nichols tavern to the brow of the hill, at the north-east corner of the cleared field north of the summit, the author has discovered the traces of an old road. It crosses the ditch on the west side of the present road. Passing from this point, across the field, in a southwesterly direction, to the bars in the middle of the western boundary, the curious will find clear traces of an old traveled way, going past the clump of trees, on the east side, skirting the west side of the hill, and coming out just west of the yard of Mr. Josiah Dunn. Going back almost to the clump of trees, and facing the south, a branch road will be found tending to the south-west, till it is lost in a field that is under cultivation. This last was probably a private road. Going back again near the clump of trees, and faint traces will be found of a road reaching up the hill-side, just east of the great boulder, and so on south by east to a point about south-west from the new saloon on the summit; thence extending east over the hill to the blacksmith shop of Dea. John Cutter. By this road, or by that which reaches the Royalston road just west of Mr. Dunn's, the distance of the original survey would be met. Again, starting from Dea. Cutter's shop, ascending the hill west a few rods, and very distinct traces of an old road will be seen running in a northerly direction, in a direct line, to the wall. This side of the wall, repeated ploughings have obliterated the marks of the road, except possibly in two or three places. This road is eight or ten rods east of the saloon, or observatory, and may be the one by which Mrs. Boynton went to meeting "over the top of the hill," though the summit is a few feet higher. It is said that this last road was made by Col. Adams, but it is probable that for his own convenience, he repaired an old road, then nearly obliterated by long disuse. My conjecture is that the first road went by the clump of trees to Mr. Dunn's, or the Day place, with a branch over the hill to the north end of the Common; that the second road went over the hill east of the saloon, and that the present is the third road, which is about a third of a mile shorter than the first.

The road starting west of the clump of trees, and going south-west, was probably for the convenience of Abner Curtice and others, living in that direction. These old roads are shown on the map by dotted lines.

12. A road from the east school-house to Samuel Sargent's land, [or John Estey's] 799 rods, or 2 1-2 miles.

13. A road running from the old Ashburnham road, by John Bemis', on the east side of the town, running south, to Gardner, 476 rods, or 1 mile and 156 rods.

14. A road from the Fitzwilliam road, a little north of the John Gill house, almost due east to Asa Perley's, 81 rods.

15. A road for Amasa Brown and Amos Hale, beginning south of Royalston road by Warner's blacksmith's shop—the road by John Raymond's, 224 rods, or 1-2 mile and 64 rods.

16. A road from Templeton line, north of Jonesville—a few rods north of the house of Abijah Kendall—by Samuel Brown's, and Paul Raymond's, to Rev. Mr. Brown's barn, near the southwest corner of the Common, 1118 rods, or 3 miles and 158 rods.

17. A road starting about 18 rods north from where the last mentioned road began, on the west side, and extending twelve rods westerly to Templeton line.

18. A road from Royalston road, west of Esq. Crosby's, or Jarvis Winn's, northerly, across the river, to Matthew Knight's, and so on to William Tolman's, 811 rods, or 2 1-2 miles and 31 rods.

19. A road from Joseph Adams' place, by Flavel Crosby's to 3 rods north of Dea. Moor's barn, near Samuel Woodbury's, 188 rods, or 1-2 mile and 28 rods.

20. A road for Capt. Jacob Wales, and others, beginning at the corner north of Capt. Alger's, thence west, by the house of Capt. Jacob Wales, to a spot about midway of the plain, thence south, by the Bowker house, thence west across the river to the county road leading from Royalston to Templeton near Joseph Day's house, a little south of the New Boston meeting-house, 588 rods, or 1 3-4 miles and 28 rods.

21. Henry Crooks' road extending 52 rods north from David Alger's just west of Miller's river, north of where Mrs. B. Adams now lives.

22. A road from Mr. Dudley Perley's by Moses Hale's to Mr. Benjamin Kidder's, through the Village, 1397 rods, or 4 miles and 117 rods.

23. A road from the last, beginning near said Kidder's, and leading westerly to John Brooks, through Bullardville, and by Tallow Hill school-house, 743 rods, or 2 miles and 103 rods.

24. A road from Royalston line, west of Paul Stuart's, or George Gregory's, southeasterly by Albert Brown's, and the Simeon Poland place, to the road from Winchendon to Royalston, east of the Barzillai Martin place, 431 rods, or 1 mile and 111 rods.

25. A road for Capt. Graton, beginning at Seth Tucker's, going easterly,

to Capt. Graton's, since J. Hapgood's, now used as a barn by Whitcomb & Fairbank, 92 rods.

26. A road from Asaph Brown's house near the Rindge line, where John Crosby formerly lived, to Fitzwilliam road near Merriam's tavern; that is from Mr. Brown's to the Village, taking the Rindge road and coming by the Payson, or E. Murdock, Jr., and the Boynton farms, 830 rods, or 2 1-2 miles and 30 rods.

27. A road from Esq. Crosby's, or Jarvis Winn's to Gardner line, south of Mr William Whitney's, afterwards Joseph Whitney's, 1074 rods, or 3 miles, 114 rods.

All the roads three rods wide, and the bounds at the angles are heaps of stones."

"March 1, *Voted* to build a powder house of brick.

May 3, Accepted a road from John Brooks', west by south, to Paul Stuart's bound. Now out of use."

From this time, changes were made in the old roads, or new roads were opened, as the public convenience required; but this action of the town marks a new epoch in the means of travel. Bridle roads began to be obsolete, and the families generally lived on the highways.

## SECTION 2.—THROUGH TRAVEL.

An effort was made very early to bring the travel from the west through this place to Boston and the eastern part of the State. We have seen that the Proprietors took measures to cut a road to Earlington, or Northfield, and thus open a communication from the valley of the Connecticut to that of the Nashua. Not far from the same time, a road was opened to Fitzwilliam and Keene, by which travel from the northwest was turned hitherwards. The tavern-keepers of those days, naturally felt an interest in the opening and improving of roads. An enterprising and energetic man by the name of Levi Nichols, came into the town, probably in the year 1772. "Encouraged by the large travel through the town," says Dr. Whiton, "he erected a tavern establishment, spacious for that day, on the spot where Mr. Cromwell Fisher's house now stands." After the Revolution, travel increased, and the tavern was well patronized. "In times of fine sleighing, it was not uncommon to see around his house, thirty or forty two-horse sleighs, loaded with produce for market; the sleigh-spires turned up, resembled a little forest; while the large barns were filled with horses, and the house was crowded

with teamsters, put up for the night, from the towns westward as far as the Green Mountains. Mr. Nichols became extensively known, and his tavern was for many years the most noted locality in Winchendon." He finally moved to Keene, and thence to Springfield, Vt., where he died. Richard Day's house just west of the Common, was used for a while as a public house; then he set up a log-house tavern in the orchard west of the house of Mr. Isaac Cummings, where are the marks of an old cellar; but very early in our history, a public house was put up on the southeast corner of the Common, where the house of Charles J. Rice now stands. Several names of the keepers of this house have already been mentioned. About the time of Mr. Nichols' removal, James McElwain, of Scotch-Irish descent, came here, and "for many years in the latter part of the last century, was the well-known keeper of the old tavern-stand at the Centre, which had been formerly kept by Matthew Knight. Mr. McElwain was a man of remarkably social disposition, and had a good share of custom. In cold weather, he had always ready for the traveler a blazing fire, in which lay a red-hot iron poker or flip-dog; to be plunged into the countless mugs of flip he compounded; that being then the favorite beverage of his customers. Those mugs of sweet-spiced flip, flavored with a cracker, crowned with froth! alas! many a man they lured along in the path to intemperance; but no man at that day *suspected* that in this state of things there was anything wrong."

About 1790, the tavern stand of Mr. Nichols was bought by Benjamin Hall, a very respectable man from Keene. After a few years, he sold out to Major Sylvester from Hanover, Mass. In time, this house was closed as a tavern, and the house of Mr. McElwain became the great place of resort by the traveling public, as well as by the quidnuncs of the town. There was a tavern also kept by Benjamin Kidder, for many years, where Jason Keith now lives. In those times the road to Tallow Hill branched off at this tavern. Two great barns furnished accommodations for teams. A few years subsequently, Dea. Moses Hale opened a public house where Seth Maynard recently lived. This was the most roomy house in town, and being on the road—afterwards a turnpike—going directly from the village to Ashburnham, received the travel which was diverted from the hill or Centre.

Early in 1795, a post-route was established from Boston to Charlestown, N. H., *via* Leominster, Winchendon and Keene. Jotham John-

son, of Leominster, informed the public, through the "Columbian Informer," a newspaper published at Keene, dated February 4, 1795, that he "transports the mail from Boston to Charlestown, conveying it in winter in a covered sleigh, carrying passengers at three pence per mile, with fourteen pounds baggage *gratis*." He carried the mail several years; in summer on horse-back. One summer he tried the experiment of running a four-horse stage. This was "quite an epoch in Winchendon; the excitement was hardly less than that attendant on the first running of the cars. The inmates of the houses ran to the doors and windows, to gaze at the stage, and scan the passengers; but the proprietor found the roads too bad, and the patronage too small, to justify the continuance of the stage." The mail passed from Boston to Leominster, on Wednesday; from Leominster to Keene on Thursday; Friday, from Keene to Charlestown and back to Walpole; Saturday, from Walpole to Leominster; and thence, Monday, to Boston. "Johnson's arrival with the Boston mail, was awaited with great impatience, by the quidnuncs of the day; they thought themselves fortunate indeed in having a mail from Boston once *every week*; it seemed to them all they could wish."

Sixty years ago it was thought "quite a feat" to come from Boston to this place by stage, in a day. About that time,—1805-6—is the date of the completion of the old turnpike road from Fitzwilliam to Winchendon, and on to the East. It was deemed at the time a great achievement, giving promise of a "flood of travel to pass through town." For a time there was a good share of travel upon it; but rival routes were constructed, which drew away much of the patronage. After some years, the Rindge route was most frequented, and that through Winchendon became comparatively forsaken. To the proprietors it proved a bad investment; in fourteen or fifteen years, shares of one hundred dollars depreciated down to fifteen or twenty, and soon afterwards became worthless. That day was the age of *Turnpikes*; but sooner or later, a similar fate overtook nearly, if not quite all these roads."

The opening of the road by the Hale tavern diverted travel from the hill, and took away custom from the tavern half way up the hill, and from that at the southeast corner of the Common. When the travel began to go through Rindge, the Hale tavern suffered. By opening the new road from the Village to Ashburnham, up the valley of Mil-

ler's river, travel was brought hither again, and for some years before the railroad was extended through this town, long lines of teams were continually passing through the Village. A team of six, eight, and even nine horses, was not an uncommon sight. At this time, the only hotel much patronized,—indeed the only one in town, except the Cobb tavern in New Boston,—was kept by Mr. Milton S. Morse. A daily stage between Boston and Keene, passed each way. Previous to this, a stage line ran from Worcester, *via* Templeton, through the Centre of the town, to the north and west. At another period, a stage line passed up and down, through Fitzwilliam, the west part of this town, and Templeton. But since 1830, a vast amount of travel, by road or railway, has passed through the Village.

The Post Office was at the Centre till about 1805, or 1806, when the Turnpike created a sort of necessity for it to be located in the Village, where, with a brief interval, it has since remained.

#### SECTION 3.—NEW ROADS.

It is time to resume the chronological narrative of the progress of road and bridge-making in the town. In 1802, a new line of road for Charles Chase was accepted, and the old discontinued. Both were, long since, abandoned. The people of Royalston wanted a good road towards the east, without the necessity of going over Winchendon hill. In 1802, September 6, the town chose the Selectmen as a committee to oppose a change in the road in the south part of the town, which the people of Royalston were trying to secure. Samuel Crosby was chosen agent to attend the Court, and use his influence, “and all other means he shall judge best,” in opposition. November 1, it was voted to build over the river, above the oil mill, where the bridge now stands, [near the works of Goodspeed & Wyman] “and take it in shares, if they will make a turnpike road through the town, so as to pass over said bridge.” A road was accepted for Col. Woodbury, by James Raymond's and north by west to the county road from Esq. Crosby's to Gardner, coming into the latter a little south of where Isaac Cummings formerly lived. It was a miserable road; two houses were on it, both long since fallen down; and the road north of Mr. Raymond's has been unknown to any of this generation. Before this time, Mr. Woodbury reached the Common by going south and west, to the Gardner road. The road was 1043 rods, or three miles and 85 rods in length.



In 1803, a road 236 rods long, from Levi Brooks' north to the State line, was accepted. It never came into use. At the same time, a road was accepted for Isaac Taylor and others, from Gardner line north by east to another "road already laid out, 104 rods." On the first of November, the town voted to repair the bridge above Amasa Whitney's mill. Accepted a road by the dry bridge near Samuel Hartwell's, 257 rods north by west. The "dry bridge" was west of the Wales or Cobb tavern. When Denison pond was very full, a stream passed from it under this bridge.

In 1804, the town strenuously opposed opening a new road from Capt. Hoar's, in Gardner, to Winchendon Common. In April, it was voted to oppose the road, the old road answering the needs of travel. In July, Lieut. Paul Raymond was chosen agent to oppose the road—before the county authorities—of course. The road was laid out, but in November, the town renewed the opposition. A subscription had been raised by those favoring the road, and the question came up in town meeting, to see if a sum of money should be granted in addition. "No," said the town. The road was made, and in after years, cost the town much money. The town almost always neglected it, and was compelled by the county to make repairs. It was the new county road, nearly in a straight line, regardless of hills, rocks or swamps. There were no houses on the road, and it was of little use to the town. Tavern-keepers at either end received some patronage from through travel.

The year 1805 witnessed several attempts at mending or opening roads. There was an alteration in the road from Robert Bradish's, by the burying-yard, to where C. C. Alger lives; an alteration in William Tolman's road; a road accepted for Stephen Tolman, 119 rods, and another for Peleg Battles, extending from near John Brooks' house, northwest, 106 rods, to the extreme northwest part of the town. On the 10th of March, \$300 were voted to pay the damages incurred on the new county road to Gardner. In May, \$300 were voted to pay for making the new county road to Gardner. On the 3d of November, the Selectmen were directed to answer by letter, a complaint from the Grand Jury respecting the old county road from Gardner to Winchendon, by William Whitney's. The turnpike through the Village, and the causeway over the pond, were made this year.

1807, April 6. Accepted a road for Mr. Wood, from Stephen Tolman's road to the Mineral Spring, half a mile. This road was the first

opening to the Spring by a town road. The next year, June 29, it was voted "to lay out \$25 on the road to the 'Virtuous Springs.'" This was ancient usage in regard to mineral springs.

In 1808, March 7, a road from Jacob Hale's,—near the Waterville school-house,—to Kilburn's mill, was accepted, for David McElwain and Daniel Farrar. May 2, it was voted to build a bridge near Mr. Ezra Hyde's, and that the abutments be of stone. This was the bridge at Waterville. Grant for bridges, \$100. May 26, \$300 were voted for the new county road to Gardner; Lieut. Raymond to see to the work.

#### SECTION 4.—WORCESTER AND FITZWILLIAM TURNPIKE.

Another source of annoyance and expense to the town, with very little good by way of compensation, came this year, in the new turnpike, along the western border. On the 7th of November, Lt. Raymond, Dea. Hale and Capt. Nathaniel Holman, were chosen to meet the committee of the above company, "to see on what conditions they can agree to build the bridge over Miller's river, near Lieut. John Pierce's." That is, west of Denison Pond. At an adjourned meeting, November 21, it was voted, "that if the proprietors of the Worcester and Fitzwilliam Turnpike will enter into bonds to the town's acceptance, to clear the town from any further expense for keeping in repair the county road from John R. Golding's, that is, the Gibson or Bagley corner, by John Pierce's, to Templeton line, the town will build a bridge and causeway for the use of the town and said corporation." Chose Lt. Raymond, Dea. Hale and Capt. Graton a committee to inform the turnpike company. As the turnpike passed over the county road from Fitzwilliam to Templeton, this was perhaps a good arrangement for both parties, until finally the gate-fees became an intolerable burden. The above meeting adjourned a week, and then voted "to build the bridge and causeway, stone abutment on west side, logs on east side, forty feet wide for the run. Then east about eleven rods and sluiceway, forty feet wide. Bridge and causeway twenty-four feet wide."

Since the new turnpike was opened from the Village to Fitzwilliam, the best way to Bullardville was on this road to the corner, by the old May house; accordingly, the road from the Kidder tavern to the May corner, was discontinued in 1809. On the 10th of April, \$300 were granted for the new county road to Gardner. December 28, a road

from Stephen Weston's to Joseph Robbins' 225 rods was accepted ; by which it appears that the former action had effected nothing.

In 1810 a part of the old road to Gardner was discontinued ; the part extending from near the old Emery or Isaac Cummings place, to the present road from the Poor-farm to the Bigelow place.

On the 9th of April, 1811, a road was accepted for James and Jesse Raymond, from the new Gardner road, east by south to the said Raymond's, 248 rods ; no damages to any one to be paid, and no extra money for making. On the 11th of October, it was voted to repair the bridges over Miller's river, by Abel Jones' beyond Waterville, and also by David Alger's, near New Boston, and to build one over the river in the Village. At a meeting, November 4, it was voted " to let the Village bridge as lotted out by the committee. Total, \$100.85."

The new county road to Gardner was always like Oliver Twist, " asking for more." In 1812, May 2, a grant of \$200 was made for repairs. On the 6th of April, a change was made in the road from Dea. Amos Heywood's to Rindge line ; a change also in the road from Stephen Weston's by Levi Brooks', and the Chase road was given up. On the 10th of August, a bridle way was accepted from Robert Houghton's house southerly, to the bars south of Samuel Sargent's house, 130 rods.

In 1814, May 2, the town accepted a road laid out for John Kilburn and others, from near Daniel Stimson's—or rather, near the Kilburn mill southerly, across the plain, to the road extending from the Common to New Boston ; 251 rods in length. Mr. Kilburn and Mr. Reed to pay land damages.

In 1815, September 11, it was voted to repair the old road leading from the turnpike near Joseph Robbins, to the old county road. The old road has long been out of use. John Flagg lived south of the junction of Otter and Miller's rivers, and needed a road and bridge. The town therefore voted to accept a road for the said Flagg, and appointed a committee to confer with him about a bridge across Otter river. The road begins a little south of Jonathan Wyman's house and goes directly west across the river. Mr. Wyman bid off the bridge at \$77. November 4, 1816, the Selectmen were directed to build a bridge near the Robbins mill on the road to Weston's.

Some may be not unwilling to know where the first guide-boards were set up. Here is a list as they were placed in 1817.

“ One board near Capt. Phinehas Whitney’s, directing to Worcester, Westminster and Ashburnham.

One board near Esq. Newcomb’s, directing to Worcester and Templeton.

One board near James McElwain’s, directing to Worcester and Templeton.

One board near John Estey’s, directing to Winchendon and Royalston.

One board near Isaac Morse’s, directing to Worcester and Rindge.

One board near Ephraim Murdock’s, directing to Royalston.

One board near Mr. Readfield’s, directing to Royalston.

One board near Joshua Wyman’s, directing to Royalston.

One board near Storr or Stower Beals’ directing to Ashburnham.”

The annual grant for keeping the highways in repair, grew more liberal from the beginning of the century. In 1808 the grant was \$1000. The same sum was continued for many years, even down to, and beyond the period to which we have now arrived.

In May, 1820, it was voted to lay out \$50 on the Isaac Taylor road.

In 1821 the bit of road from Dea. Hale’s tavern, south by west, about forty rods, to the road leading from the Common to Ashburnham was accepted. At the same time, the road from Dea. Hale’s to Joseph Whitney’s—the old Dudley Perley place—was discontinued. Afterwards—in 1823—it was re-opened. There was a straight road—since discontinued, from Dea. Hale’s to the Estey school-house.

1822, May 6, the town accepted the road from David Beaman’s to widow Heywood’s—since Capt. Forristall’s—164 rods in length, on condition that the town be indemnified from any charges for the land, or fencing the same, and the north district make the road.

A slight alteration was made in the road from the southwest burying-yard to the turnpike, in 1824.

On the 7th of March, 1825, a road for John Kilburn, was accepted, from his mill, on the west side of Miller’s river, north, to the Royalston road. This road was made, in course of time, and was used till the woods in the neighborhood were all cut up. The road is now grown over, in spots, with young trees, and entirely out of use. It was 238 rods in length. In May, the Selectmen were directed without expense to the town, to view the roads, see where they were too narrow, and have all three rods wide. Robert Houghton’s bridle-path was changed into a road. Cyrus Pierce, who then lived at the Butler mill place,

had a road from the mill, southerly, 215 rods, to the road leading from the Estey school house to Robert Houghton's; the point of junction being just west of the bridge over Miller's river.

#### SECTION 6.—CONTEST WITH TURNPIKE COMPANIES.

In 1823, the North Branch Turnpike Corporation wanted to set up a toll-gate near the house of Esq. Murdock, in lieu of two gates at other points on the road, with the privilege of charging double toll. The town remonstrated with great spirit; sent the remonstrance to the General Court, and instructed their representative, Isaac Morse, Esq., to oppose the project.

Two or three years later, the town was troubled by the action of the other Turnpike company, and on the 1st of May, 1826, voted unanimously to remonstrate against the Worcester and Fitzwilliam Turnpike Corporation erecting a gate near the Denison pond in Winchendon. A remonstrance was drawn up at considerable length, probably by Esq. Henshaw, presenting the objections with great force. It seems that the town, and the inhabitants living on and near the road, were at a great part of the expense and trouble of making the turnpike-road, (besides giving the land,) and making the bridges on the same. The town built the largest bridge at great expense; and the next largest was built by private inhabitants, without any expense to the corporation, or any benefit to themselves, except the free use of that part of the turnpike lying near them, and within the bounds of Massachusetts. The fifth point of remonstrance is of general interest, as may be seen by reading it in the words following:

“Because in this age, and in this land of liberty, turnpike gates are everywhere considered a nuisance, and vexatious to travelers, as well as the turnpike roads themselves, which are generally the poorest roads over which the traveler passes from one part of the country to another; it is often the case that people are obliged to travel on a turnpike, and to be obliged to travel on a bad and dangerous road, and to be frequently and forcibly stopped and detained, and have draughts made on their purses, and their patience, is considered an infringement of liberty, a sort of legalized robbery, which is fast becoming intolerable. Your remonstrants would therefore humbly yet respectfully suggest the propriety of diminishing this great evil, by improving every legal means to lessen the number of gates, instead of increasing the evil by adding to the number already erected.”

This remonstrance was unanimously adopted, and sent to the General Court.

The next year, December 24, 1827, the town chose a committee of three—David Henshaw, Jacob Wales and Israel Whitcomb—to remonstrate against the Worcester and Fitzwilliam Turnpike Corporation moving their toll gate from where it now is, to near Jacob Wales'. In 1830, this Corporation wished to get rid of its road from the Baptist meeting-house to the Fitzwilliam line. Probably there was no gate between the two points. The town chose a committee to remonstrate against such discontinuance. The idea was this; that the Turnpike Co. as long as it took toll, should keep its whole line of road in repair.

In 1828, October 13, there was a meeting to act on an article in the warrant, "to see what course the town will pursue as respects the North Branch Turnpike road being laid out as a county road." It was voted to choose a committee of three to meet the county Commissioners; viz: D. Henshaw, Benjamin Adams, Sen., and Ebenezer Richardson. It was voted that the inhabitants of this town are in favor of the petition of Amory Holman in behalf of the North Branch Turnpike Corporation, for making such turnpike a free road. Several reasons are given. 1. That there must be a road on the route for the convenience of the people. 2. There was no way to compel the Corporation to repair the road. It was thought right also that the county should bear some part of the expense. This was the last of the turnpike "nuisance."

Going back and collecting stray items, we find there was a vote, May 1, 1826, to repair the causeway between Mr. Ball's and Mr. Caswell's, when Luke Parks, John Kilburn and Oliver Lovejoy were chosen to see it done.

The town was indicted for not keeping the new county road to Gardner in repair. On the 18th of August, a grant of \$300 was made, to be expended on this road, and the town instructed a committee "to hire the best of hands," &c. An agent was chosen to inform the Court of Common Pleas of this action. The indictment was removed. The next entry is suggestive. On the 11th of September the vote granting \$300 for the county road, was reconsidered, and then \$100 was granted for the county road, and the other \$200 for the Houghton and the Pierce or Butler roads. On the 7th of March, 1827, Capt. John Forristall was chosen agent to put the new county road to Gardner, in good repair, from John Woodbury's to the Common.

1828. The town accepted a road, May 5, from the southwest corner of the town, near Mr. Forbush's, leading north by east, to the turnpike going from Templeton to Fitzwilliam, by the Gibson corner, 402 rods, on condition that the town "be indemnified from paying any damages for said road, and have four years to make it in, by paying \$30 per year in highway work, in addition to the highway district's proportion of highway money in which said road is situated." This road was built in two or three years, after several delays, and by it a good route was opened to South Royalston.

#### SECTION 6.—A SECTIONAL STRUGGLE.

About this time—1828—the town was agitated by a sectional struggle, which, after several fluctuations, finally settled in favor of the Village, and as a consequence, secured its lead in town affairs, and helped to its rising prosperity. There was an effort to run two roads through the town, neither of them to touch the Common, but north and south of it. Oliver Far and others petitioned for one from S. Bowker's in Royalston, through Winchendon Village and Ashburnham to Fitchburg. The town voted against this—12 yeas to 17 nays,—and chose D. Henshaw, Esq., and Col. B. Adams to meet the Commissioners, and oppose the project. The other road was asked for by Joseph Estabrooks and others, to start from near Bowker's, go through the south of the town, Gardner and Westminster. The town voted in favor of this route. The object of the town was to prevent, so to speak, a disturbance of its equilibrium. A road through the south part of the town would be of scarce any benefit to the town, and of none at all to the Centre; but a road through the Village, which was now quite a nucleus of business, would tend to its increase. This raised visions of the removal of the meeting-house, and the place of holding town-meetings, which it was painful to the people of the central and southern parts of the town to contemplate.

In April, 1829, the town granted \$200 to be laid out on the old turnpike, below the Village; that is, on the way towards the Hale tavern, and so to Ashburnham, by one branch, and Westminster, by another. The town could vote for this, because it would thus head off a new project for a road direct to Ashburnham, near the river. On the 4th of May, the north rallied, and the town chose Isaac Morse an agent to wait on the Commissioners and "request them to postpone laying out a road through the south part of Winchendon, for the present." This was the

most that could be secured. The town had declared in favor of the southern route, but was willing to have it postponed "for the present." At the same time, it was voted to lay out \$150 on the old turnpike above the Village, under the superintendence of Capt Forristall.

The south road was not "postponed," and the town was called on to build it. On the 7th of September, a committee of five,—Jacob Wales, Col. Adams, Capt. B. Wilder, Capt. Levi Greenwood, and Jacob Woodbury—were chosen "to lot out and let out the road" through the south part of the town. The road was built, and perhaps other towns have derived some benefit from it, in former times. To this town it was simply a bill of expense.

At the same meeting it was resolved, that the town are opposed to the laying out of a new road in the north part of the town. D. Henshaw, Esq., Capt. Benj. Wilder, and Messrs. William Brown, M. M. Reed, and Stephen Tolman,—all living south of the Centre or on the old turnpike—were chosen a committee "to use all reasonable means to oppose the laying out of said road," and to meet the Commissioners for that purpose. It should be said, in this connection, that a few in the north section joined the opposition. Those whose houses were on the old turnpike, and whose farms would be cut in the rear by the new county road, did not see any advantage to themselves in the proposed measure, and voted with the south section. But in spite of this persistent opposition, the Commissioners laid the road. In consequence, the town was soon called upon to furnish the means. A meeting was held on the 31st of October, at which it was voted to choose a committee of five "to lot out, and let out, and superintend the making of the road." Chose Isaac Morse, Israel Whitcomb, Benjamin Adams, John Forristall and Amasa Whitney. Two of these lived in the Village, one at the extreme north, one at the extreme south and one in the centre of the town.

For nearly twenty years, the annual grant for highways had been \$1000; but in 1830, May 5, there was an increase. There was the usual grant of \$1000, and a part of the \$1700 for expenses of the town, was to be devoted to the making of the two new roads. In addition, a subscription had been made for the purpose of aiding the north road. In 1839, \$1250 were granted for highways, and \$2000 for new roads and other necessary charges. As \$1000 was about the



sum usually granted yearly for roads before this time, it will be seen that the two new roads required quite an outlay of money.

#### SECTION 7.—VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS.

The Gardner road, on which scarcely anybody lived, was up again for repair. A complaint had been made to the grand jury. The town chose an agent, August 2, 1830, to repair the road under the inspection of the Selectmen, and granted \$100 for the purpose. Nothing was done however till the next spring, when Capt. Forristall was chosen a special agent to lay out the money, on the road "between the Common and Gardner line." In 1830, the Selectmen were authorized to build a new bridge by Poor's mill, if thought necessary. It was voted also, to build a bridge of wood over the river by Amasa Whitney's mill. This was delayed four or five years, as repairs at the north end, made the bridge safe.

In 1832, measures were taken to repair the old turnpike from the Village to Fitzwilliam. This was the turnpike by Robbinsville. It was, by this time, given up by the Turnpike Co., and the gates were removed. The causeway west of the New Boston meeting-house was repaired. On the 27th of October, it was voted, almost unanimously, to oppose the proposed road from Royalston Factory to the Village.

Probably this scheme, and another which came up the next year, 1833, were thought to be for the benefit of Waterville rather than the Village. The other proposed road was to go from Waterville, over Prentice and Benjamin hills to Capt. Adams', now Mr. Fisher's. It was, probably, a new and improved route, by which the Waterville people could get to the Centre without going through the Village. Both attempts failed.

In 1833, March 7, the town voted to lay out a road from Levi Prentiss',—near the present house of Harvey Wyman,—to the county road, where William Brown 2d now resides, 22 rods; and discontinue the old road from the said Prentiss' to Luke Heywood's. This old road went by Mr. Sumner Wyman's and Mrs. Connors' to the old Brooks house. On the 21st of September, the town "accepted the doings of the Selectmen in laying the road by the ledge, near Lewis Robbins' house." The ledge was near the present house of William Woodcock, and the road went from R. Stuart's to Robbins', and thence up to the hill to Levi Priest's, 69 rods.

A road was needed from Spring Village to Rindge, but the town voted, in March, 1834, not to accept one. The roads in Waterville were slightly altered, but the changes were not important. On the 10th of November, the town accepted a road made by Amasa Whitney, leading east from Seth Tucker's to the Gibson house, 24 rods. Also a road 58 rods long, from Charles Tolman's—just west of the Methodist parsonage—to the county road; that is, to the east corner of the Academy lot. This was probably an alteration of the old road.

In 1835, March meeting, Joseph Robbins, was forbidden to flow the road, in two places, by his dams. On the 25th of September it was voted to build a bridge by Amasa Whitney's mill. On the 9th of November, the town was called upon to build the road from Spring Village, northward; and it accordingly chose a committee to "lay out and let the building of the road ordered by the County Commissioners from Spring Village to Rindge line. Chose John Forristall, James McElwain, and Henry Greenwood.

An important move was made in 1837, to bring the Village and Waterville into more easy communication. On the 1st of May, it was voted to accept the river road from Waterville to the Village, 279 rods and 6 links in length. Damages awarded to Job Hyde, \$30; to Esq. Murdock, \$60. November 13, an alteration was made in the road leading from Baldwin's to the Estey school-house. The change was from the new county road to Ashburnham, across the river, southerly, to the road from Butler's mill to the school-house. Also, an alteration in the road, from the Spring crossing, north by east, towards Spring Village, 57 rods, 7 links.

In 1838, the road from Waterville to No. 9 school-house was accepted; 162 rods. Also, a road was accepted from Joseph Robbins', north by east, to the State line, 157 rods. March 4, 1839, a road from near No. 6 school-house, to the new county road to Gardner, about 131 rods, was accepted. On the third of June, this was authorized as a private way. There was to be a gate at each end.

The grant for highways, in 1834, was \$1600; in 1835, \$1200; in 1836, \$1600; the same sum the next three years; in 1839, \$1800; the same sum in 1840.

In this last year, September 14, the town directed the Selectmen to meet the County Commissioners, and oppose, if expedient, the Cheshire Railroad Company's laying their road across town ways at grade.

In 1841, May 3, the road from Spring Village to Richard Whitney's—now Capt. E. Murdock's farm—249 rods, was accepted.

In 1842, there was an alteration in the road from Edward Loud's, in Bullardville, westward, 89 rods. And a road was authorized from the house of John Brooks, 139 rods, to Samuel Holman's. It was voted to put up gates at the ends of the road extending from Kilburn's mill northerly to the Royalston road; then voted to discontinue the road. An effort was made to improve the road from Marvin T. Nash's—then living near the No. 2 school-house—to the Kidder place; but it failed by a vote of 14 to 76. A few days later, June 6, a committee was chosen to meet the Commissioners, and see if there is not a better route from M. T. Nash's by the J. Bradish place, to the Fitzwilliam line, and request them not to cause the town to make a new road until it is known whether a railroad is to be made to Fitchburg, or not. The improvement was ordered, and on the 7th of March, 1843, the town chose a committee of five,—E. Murdock, Jr., John Forristall, Isaac Morse, Levi Greenwood and George Alger,—“to lot out and let out, and superintend the building of the road ordered by the County Commissioners.” On the 1st of May, \$600 were granted for building the road. On the 5th of June, the Selectmen were authorized to borrow \$1500 for building said road. Voted, also to accept a re-lay of the road from Mr. Nash's to the old road, 129 rods. And the next year a road from the new road to Fitzwilliam to the Nahum Robbins road, was accepted. This new road to the Fitzwilliam line was a great improvement, inasmuch as it avoided two formidable hills on the old turnpike road.

In 1843, March 6, the Selectmen were directed to repair the road to Gardner, and the old road to Ashburnham. June 5, they were authorized to repair the road in New Boston—the old Worcester and Fitzwilliam turnpike, the company now being defunct. At the same time, the street in front of the Methodist meeting-house was accepted, 15 rods, 12 links. Also, accepted an improvement of the road this side of Mr. Ball's; that is, up the sand hill this side of the bridge over Miller's river, by Mr. Ball's. The change extended about 68 rods.

In 1845, March meeting, \$150 were granted for the new road to Ashburnham, and \$2337.76 for the new road to Fitzwilliam. Here it may be remarked, that from the time when the new road to Ashburnham was opened, travel began again to take the route through the Vil-

lage, and continued so till the railroad was opened in 1847. On the 30th of June, the road from the Houghton place, eastward 110 rods; to the Ashburnham line, was accepted. No damage awarded. On the 10th of November, that part of Summer street east of Central street, was accepted. Also, a road from opposite Harvey Wyman's old blacksmith shop to the residence of Rev. A. P. Marvin—now Dea. Butler's, —33 1-2 rods.

1846, Baxter D. Whitney was allowed, November 9, to raise the road this side of the Spring crossing, because the elevation of his dam flowed the water over the road.

In 1847, November 29, a road was accepted from S. Tucker's, west, 16 rods; a part of Maple street.

In 1849, November 12, a road was accepted from the Butler mills, south, across the railroad, to the Ashburnham road, 61 rods; with the right to carry the water across the road, and to build a railroad track beside the Cheshire railroad, but not to obstruct travel. At the same meeting, the road from the Butler mills, north-east, about 180 rods to the Houghton road, was accepted. The old road from the Butler mills to David Flint's was discontinued. At the same time, an effort was made to shut up the old road from Waterville over the Benjamin hill. The motion failed, partly because the road was convenient for some persons to reach their lands, and partly because the road affords many splendid views to those who admire the beauties of nature. Every house formerly on this road has disappeared; but the time will come when a part of it will be chosen for pleasant residences. At this meeting, a few rods of road were discontinued just east of the No. 9 school-house.

In 1850, November 11, an alteration in the road by Jacob Woodbury's, 85 rods, was allowed, and \$90 damages were awarded to him. Pleasant street, from Front, northerly 76 rods, was accepted. In 1851, an alteration was authorized in the road from where Horace Whitcomb then lived, south by the old burying-yard, and \$40 damages awarded.

#### SECTION 8.—THREE NEW ROADS.

At this period there was need of at least four—perhaps five—new roads, for the accommodation of the public. One of them, extending from Waterville school-house, south by west, through the Asa Hyde farm to the corner of the Fry road, 183 rods, and offering a direct

route towards New Boston and South Royalston, was accepted on conditions. But the road has never been opened.

Another was needed, extending from Bullardville to Waterville, by the Hyde mill, but it had to wait four or five years before the town took favorable action. Three of the needed roads, by strenuous effort, were opened.

. The first of these extends from the Raymond corner to the Estey school-house. More than half a century before, Messrs. James and Jesse Raymond, and Mr. Woodbury applied for a road to the Dudley Perley place, whereby they could reach the Centre or the Village mill. Their effort failed. Their descendants, Levi and Clark Raymond, and the Woodburys, applied for a road in 1849, and on the 10th of December, it was accepted. This was to extend to the Estey school-house, because it would be more convenient than the route proposed before, and was 359 rods in length. Damages allowed, \$305. On the 1st of April, 1850, the former vote was reconsidered by a vote of 75 to 18. In 1853, May 25, the subject came up again, and several votes were taken, but finally the application for the road was rejected. At length the County Commissioners approved of the route, and the road was built in 1855. It is not only a great convenience to the people in the east section of the town, but also to all travelers between the Village and Gardner.

The second of the needed roads which succeeded in the struggle for existence, was what is called the Alger road. The town declined to build it; an appeal was made to the County Commissioners, who approved it. On the 15th of April, 1850, the town chose a committee to oppose the Alger road before the Commissioners. The route was approved, and the road was built. It extends from the Royalston road, at a point a little east of Mr. Nathaniel Hale's house, southerly to the corner north of Capt. George Alger's, and thus opens all of the 8th district to Waterville, while affording a good road between the Village and Baldwinville.

The third road was called the Kilburn and Gibson road; more properly, Kilburn and Sibley. On the 21st of February, 1853, the town accepted this road, extending from near the Kilburn mill to the Sibley mill, 332 rods, and allowed \$350 for damages. On the 30th of April, this action was reconsidered; and then the last vote was reconsidered. The subject came up again on the 25th of May, when the result was

in favor of the road. It was built accordingly. On the 30th of August, a short road from Gibson's corner to the flag station on the Vermont & Massachusetts railroad, which had been resisted strongly, was accepted. This was reconsidered, and then again accepted.

At length, the proposed road from Bullardville to Hydeville, and so on to Waterville, was, through the persevering efforts of Mr. Ezra Hyde and others, accepted, in 1854; length, 278 rods; damages, \$80. But opposition prevented its being built until 1860, when on the 10th of March, it was agreed to finally, and was to be 343 rods in length.

#### SECTION 9.—NEW BRIDGES.

The great flood in April, 1852, made it necessary to lay out quite a sum of money, without delay, for bridges. Nearly every dam and bridge on the river, from the Ashburnham line to New Boston, was swept away. The waters on the northern branch were held back by the great Monomonauk lake and reservoir, so that no damage was incurred. On the 4th of May a town meeting was held, and a committee of nine chosen to examine the several bridges to be built, and make plans and estimates for rebuilding the same, and report to an adjourned meeting. Also to do all things which they think necessary and proper for forwarding the rebuilding said bridges, before the meeting. On the 15th of May the committee made a report, which was accepted. A committee of three—Oliver Adams, Milton S. Morse, and Ephraim W. Lord, was chosen to lot out, let out, and superintend the building of the bridges.

The appropriations for highways fluctuated from \$1000 to \$1600, for several years. This included bridges, except those which, on account of their cost, required a special grant. In 1853, the grant for highways was but \$1200; but that for town charges was \$3,500. In 1854, for the same purpose, \$4,000. The next two years, the grant was \$5,000 for each year. A part of this went to pay for the bridges; but the exact amount is not known.

In May, 1852, the road from Robbins' mill to the bridge, on the Waterville road was accepted. At first, when this road was laid out, it crossed the river by the bend between the tannery and the Robbins mill, and followed the east bank of the river. The bridge having been washed away, was not rebuilt, but the road was continued on the west side, some rods beyond the mill, where a new bridge was thrown across the stream.

On the 2d of November, a road from the Gardner line to the Greenwood mills, about 44 rods, with \$25 damages was accepted.

In 1853, several Village streets were accepted as roads ; as parts of Maple, Grove and Pleasant streets. Also an alteration in the road from the Thomas place to Luke Wilder's.

In 1854, the town accepted the following roads: One for William Harris, in the east part of the town, 29 rods ; damages, \$25.00 ; another for Luke Rice to C. C. Alger's, 20 rods ; damages, \$7.00. In 1855 allowed John Cutter to fill the hollow at the foot of Pillsbury hill, east of Jarvis Winn's. In 1856, a road was accepted from John T. Woodbury's to the Gardner road, 114 rods ; damages, \$185.00. Beach street was accepted as a road in 1860, 61 rods ; and other streets at various times.

In 1866, two rather important roads were before the town for action. The first was to bring the Alger road directly into Waterville, without making the sharp angle at the school-house. This was carried, and now the road inosculates at the Royalston road, east of the house of the late Nathaniel Hale, with the Alger road to Baldwinville. The other was a direct road from Spring Village to the railroad station. After a lively and protracted struggle, in 1867, this road was secured, though the County Commissioners were summoned into the field, before the victory was won.

## CHAPTER XVI.—WINCHENDON POLITICS SINCE 1800.

“The greatest glory of a free-born people,  
Is to transmit that freedom to their children.”

HAVARD.

### SECTION I.—FEDERALISM.

This town was firmly on the side of the party in power, both in the State and Nation from the inauguration of Washington, in 1789, until 1800. During the term of Mr. Jefferson, it adhered as firmly to Gov. Caleb Strong. On the 2d of April, 1804, Mr. Strong had every vote for Governor.

In 1806, after the attack on the Chesapeake, by a British man-of-war, there was a call for volunteers. This town responded, and the following men volunteered, viz: Capt. Timothy Hancock, (he was the oldest captain in the regiment, and by the call, was obliged to respond); Jacob Parks, Eliphalet Parks, John Grout, Luther Bowker. None of these were obliged to enter the service. The cavalry company commanded by Capt. Phinehas Whitney were warned to be in readiness, and paraded, and all volunteered to go; but they were not called into service.

In 1808, September 5, the town voted to petition the President of the United States, to suspend the embargo, in whole or in part. Then voted to choose a committee to draft a petition to the President, Mr. Jefferson. The committee consisted of the following persons, viz: Dr. Israel Whiton, Capt. Thomas Graton, Col. Jacob B. Woodbury, Capt. Lemuel Heywood, and Lieut. Paul Raymond. Adjourned for half an hour. Then met, and accepted the petition drafted by the committee, by a nearly unanimous vote. The Selectmen, with the town Clerk, were chosen to transmit a copy of the petition to President Jefferson. It was then voted that the Moderator sign the petition with the Selectmen and the Clerk. The Moderator was Col. Woodbury, the Clerk, Samuel



Prentice, and the Selectmen, Paul Raymond, James Raymond, David Beaman, Isaac Morse and Abijah Pierce. The following is the petition.

“TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES :

The inhabitants of the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in legal town meeting, met on Monday, the fifth day of September, A. D. 1808, beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that they feel themselves interested in whatever tends to the peace and prosperity of the United States; they also feel themselves under the greatest obligation to submit to a government of their own choice, yet we, your petitioners, now look up to the political ruler of our nation, and ask the manifestation of his sincere regards, as there has been so great a change of affairs among the European nations of late, that we expect the restraints of our trade cannot have that good effect which was expected by our constituted authority; and it appears to us that the situation of our Eastern States so far differs from that of the Southern States, that we suffer in a greater degree than they. And as it now appears that the present time is a more favorable one for regaining our losses, and of preventing our farther sinking into ruin; therefore we hope your Excellency will have the honor and happiness of making glad the hearts of themselves, by the suspension of the embargo, in whole or in part, which is now creating evils which language cannot express. And we now expect that the President is sensible that those laws cannot effect the good intention he before contemplated; and if your Excellency should doubt of the power vested in you by the Congress of the United States, we will wait patiently for the coming of Congress, to take the subject into consideration; and we, your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.”

The President replied to this Petition, and the answer was read in town meeting on the 7th of November; but it is not to be found on the Records.

#### SECTION 2.—THE LAST WAR WITH ENGLAND.

It is a part of our national history, that the Eastern States, and especially Massachusetts, were opposed to the war of 1812-15, with Great Britain; and that, under the lead of Gov. Strong, Josiah Quincy and others, her people were anxious for the return of peace. They believed the war was unnecessary, and that the objects for which it was ostensibly waged, could be better secured by peaceful means. In these views the inhabitants of Winchendon sympathized. A meeting was held on the 10th of August, 1812, “to take the sense of the town on the alarming situation of public affairs, and use any constitutional method to al-

leviate the distress we now suffer, and avert impending calamities, in the best method they think proper." A committee of five was chosen to prepare a respectful memorial to the President of the United States, "expressing our opinion of the present war, and prepare some resolutions for the acceptance or non-acceptance of the town." Israel Whiton, M. D., Isaac Morse, Esq., Daniel Henshaw, Esq., Capt. Joshua Stoddard, and Col. Woodbury were the committee.

The Memorial and Resolves were read and accepted. Besides sending them to President Madison, the town voted to have them printed in the Worcester Spy. Two agents were then chosen to attend a county Convention called to meet at Worcester, viz: Messrs. Henshaw and Prentice. A committee of safety, viz: Samuel Brown, Israel Whiton, Jacob B. Woodbury, Paul Raymond and James McElwain, was chosen. It was voted that the Memorial and Resolves be signed by the moderator, Isaac Morse, and the clerk, Mr. Prentice. A committee of nine was also chosen to circulate the Memorial for signers. The document is not to be found. What were the duties of the "Committee of Safety," we are left to conjecture.

In 1814, March 7, the question came up: Will the town petition the General Court, at their next session, respecting the alarming state of our national affairs? It was referred to a committee of seven to draft a petition to the General Court, and report at an adjournment of this meeting. Chose Messrs. Henshaw, Morse, Whiton, Prentice, Ezra Hyde, Jr., Woodbury and McElwain. It was about this time that a portion of the town was so much exercised about the Minister's preaching. The action of the town has been already cited. As Mr. Pillsbury was a republican, or Jeffersonian, and sustained the administration, by vote, and perhaps sometimes mildly in speech, he was, so far forth, obnoxious to the majority; but the matter was not pushed, and the excitement subsided.

The war, however, continued to agitate the public mind, and accordingly, on the 30th of January, 1815, a meeting was called "to take into consideration the calamitous state of our country with regard to the war, and with particular reference to public taxes; to see if some method can be devised which shall render the same less burdensome to this part of the country by choosing a committee to report what is most expedient to be done, by petition to the General Court or otherwise to act on the same, as may be thought proper."

During the war, it may here be said, the town met every requisition made upon it by the State, and voted extra pay to all of her soldiers who in any manner rendered service at Boston, or elsewhere near the seacoast. Gov. Strong had a controversy with the General Government; he maintaining that the militia of any State was under the orders of its constituted authorities, and could not be ordered out of the country by the national government. The town went with the Governor, and gave him an unwavering support, but was ready to maintain the honor of the nation against its foreign foes. Several men from this town, were engaged in the service of the United States. Three men enlisted in the United States service. One was Seth Sargeant. He was under Hull, and became a prisoner at Detroit, in 1812. Another was Joel Hancock, who was wounded in the service. The third was Jonas Bradish, but he did not serve long. Those of the militia who volunteered when called by the requisition of the President, in 1812, were the following seven of the south company, viz: Serg. Levi Raymond, Corp. Samuel Hartwell, Reuben Vose, Sr., Gideon Balcom, Leavitt Stoddard, Simon Tuttle, Joseph Wyman. The following were members of the north company: Samuel Sargeant, Jr., Jacob Hale, Jr. These were called to go wherever the government should send them; but Gov. Strong would not consent to their being taken beyond the bounds of the country.

In 1814, a draft was sent for two men from each company, and a volunteer could not be found. Asaph Brown and Samuel Poland were drafted. Both hired substitutes; Samuel Wiley and James Murdock. From the south company, James McElwain and William Brown were drafted. The former hired William Hancock, and the latter hired Simon Tuttle, Jr.

On the 30th day of January, the adjourned meeting was held, and chose Lt. Paul Raymond, Moderator. Chose a committee as follows: Dr. Israel Whiton, Mr. Daniel Henshaw, Col. Jacob B. Woodbury, Messrs. Daniel T. Bruce, Samuel Brown, Samuel Noyes and Jacob Woodbury. The meeting adjourned for one hour, then met and voted to hear the report of the committee.

“TO THE HON. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED:

The inhabitants of the town of Winchendon in legal town meeting assembled, would briefly and respectfully represent that we are sensibly impressed

with the evils of the present disastrous war; and having in vain sought relief from those who were the authors of our calamity, now apply to the legislature of our own Commonwealth, with pride and confidence in their wisdom, firmness and ability to take such means as they may see fit to adopt. And we would avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our hearty approbation of the proceedings of the New England Convention at Hartford. The moderation, wisdom and firmness expressed in that important State paper, are calculated to satisfy the high expectations excited by the appointment of such experienced, well-tried and distinguished patriots to so important and arduous a trust. We deem it unnecessary for the people to point out to their more enlightened representatives the various calamities arising from this war by the enormous and unexampled profusion of money, the appointment of innumerable unskillful and unprincipled officers civil and military, which infects all parts of our country, nor the imbecility and ill success in which the war is conducted, the impolicy injustice or wickedness, of our rulers in first declaring it, or its baneful effects on the morals of the community, as all these are well known to all classes of people.

But as the representatives of so large and respectable a body of people as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, collectively, must be supposed to have some influence with our national legislature, it is hoped some method may by their wisdom be devised, which shall in some measure relieve the people from the insupportable burden of Government Taxes, much of which is borne by the poorer classes of people. And whatever measures may be adopted, consistent with their duty as citizens, they pledge themselves to support."

"Voted that the report be signed by the Moderator and Clerk, and forwarded to the Legislature."

Speaking of the war, Dr. Whiton says: "A powerful British armament appeared on the coast of New England, August, 1814, and after the seizure of some places in Maine, threatened the towns on the eastern coast of Massachusetts. A good deal of alarm was felt for the city of Boston, and large draughts of militia were marched from the interior to the vicinity of the capital, for its protection.—With various fluctuations of disaster and success, by sea and land, the war continued from 1812 to the beginning of 1815. The news of peace, February, 1815, threw the country into almost a delirium of joy. In cities and villages men went round with glad hearts and elastic steps to congratulate their neighbors. When the news arrived in the night, the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, and the loud shouts in the streets, *Peace, Peace*, aroused the sleepers from their beds to join in the general joy! In this

place, where the war had been from the first, unpopular, there was a hearty participation in the public exultation."

In 1820 there was an animated canvass for Representative. The first ballot resulted in no choice.

|  |    |                |           |
|--|----|----------------|-----------|
| Eph <sup>m</sup> Murdock, Esq., had 5 votes, |    | SECOND BALLOT. |           |
| Mr. Amasa Whitney,                           | 1  | Mr. Murdock,   | 1 vote.   |
| Mr. Thomas Greenwood,                        | 13 | Mr. Greenwood, | 11 votes. |
| Daniel Henshaw, Esq.,                        | 63 | Mr. Henshaw,   | 58 "      |
| Horatio G. Newcomb, Esq.                     | 65 | Mr. Newcomb,   | 74 "      |

### SECTION 3.—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 1820.

At a meeting held on the 21st of August, of this year, the question which came down from the General Court was: "Is it expedient that delegates be chosen to meet in convention for the purpose of revising or altering the Constitution of Government of this Commonwealth?" The town voted with the following result: for said measure, 23; against, 82.

A majority of the people, however, throughout the Commonwealth voted in favor of holding the proposed Convention, and the election of delegates took place on the 16th of October. The vote in this town was as follows:

|                             |   |   |   |          |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| For Ephraim Murdock, Esq.,  | - | - | - | 1 vote.  |
| " Lieut. Isaac Morse,       | - | - | - | 4 votes. |
| " Horatio G. Newcomb, Esq., | - | - | - | 21 "     |
| " Samuel Prentiss, Esq.,    | - | - | - | 74 "     |

On the 29th of the following April, the vote was taken on the Amendments approved by the Convention. This town voted in favor of all but three of the fourteen submitted to the people. These three—the 1st, 2d and 10th, were rejected by the State, as were also the 5th and 9th. The articles adopted are those numbered from 1 to 9 in the Amendments.

The 10th Amendment to the State Constitution was rejected on the 11th of May, 1831, by the following vote: yeas, 34; nays, 36.

In 1833, November 11, the Amendment of the third article of the Bill of Rights, was voted upon by the town. It is now numbered as Amendment XI, and relates to public worship. The vote was: yeas, 144; nays, 0. The people of Winchendon felt a deep interest in this

subject, being firm friends of religious freedom. In 1831, they had petitioned the Legislature to make this Amendment.

#### SECTION 4.—POLITICAL PARTIES.

The majority of the town were attached to the Federal party from the inauguration of Washington to the breaking up of old parties in the days of President Monroe. The vote of this town was given for Washington, the elder Adams, Pinckney and Rufus King, and against Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, until the second election of the latter in 1820, when almost all opposition ceased. It was called the "era of good feeling," a time of halcyon calm in politics. But as a very fair, warm day in winter, is called a "weather-breeder," and is sure to be followed by a storm, so in this time of political quiet, the elements for a furious agitation which was to convulse the whole country, were gathering. The first outbreak of this tempest was felt in 1824, when five candidates for the presidency were before the people, viz: Adams, Jackson, Crawford, Clay and Calhoun. Neither having received a majority of the electoral votes, the House of Representatives elected Mr. Adams. Then the storm swelled into a tempest, which raged all through the administration of Mr. Adams. The nature of the opposition, as well as its violence, was expressed by one of the leaders of the Jackson party, in the well-remembered sentiment that the "administration of Mr. Adams should be overthrown if he were as pure as the angels of God." This town voted for Mr. Adams, in 1824, by a slight vote, there being but little opposition to overcome. At the next election, in 1828, the lines were drawn closer, and all the votes cast, 82, were for John Quincy Adams. The vote for Governor was, for Levi Lincoln, 87, and for Marcus Morton, 2. The next year Morton had 4 votes; and in 1830 he had 38 to 110 for Lincoln. In 1831, the Anti-Masonic party had gathered considerable strength in several of the Northern States, including Massachusetts. The vote in this town for Governor, was,

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| For Samuel Lathrop, Anti-Masonic, | 76. |
| “ Levi Lincoln, Whig,             | 49. |
| “ Marcus Morton, Democrat,        | 33. |

In the Presidential election in the year 1832, the town voted as follows:

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| For Henry Clay, Whig,         | 85 votes. |
| “ Martin Van Buren, Democrat, | 64 “      |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| For William Wirt, Anti-Masonic,                         | 38 votes. |
| In the State election, the vote was                     |           |
| For Levi Lincoln,                                       | 73 "      |
| " Marcus Morton,  | 43 "      |
| " Samuel Lathrop,                                       | 65 "      |
| The next year, the votes for Governor were as follows : |           |
| For John Davis,   | 52 "      |
| " John Quincy Adams,                                    | 57 "      |
| " Marcus Morton,  | 48 "      |

In 1836, on amending the Constitution relating to the General Court, the Amendment known as the 12th, was voted upon by the town as follows : yeas, 150 ; nays, 3. In November, the town went with the State in support of the Whig candidate for the Presidency.

It is not necessary to give minutely the political state of the town, from year to year. On a subsequent page the facts relating to State and National elections will be presented in tabular form. A brief space will be given to the rise and progress of the Anti-Slavery party, under its different names. Here it is enough to record that the vote for Mr. Morton was, in 1838, 117 against 165 for Mr. Everett, and in 1839, 181 for Morton to 158 for Everett. This was the culmination of his vote. The next year the town went for John Davis, 202 ; Marcus Morton, 153. In 1843, he had the same vote as Gov. Briggs, that is, 160 ; when Samuel E. Sewall had 16 votes.

#### SECTION 5.—THE SURPLUS REVENUE.

The income of the United States Treasury, from various sources, but principally from Customs, during the last term of Gen. Jackson's administration, was far beyond the expenditures of the government. This surplus revenue, as it was called, to the amount of about \$37,000, 000, was distributed equally among the several States, with the proviso that it should be paid back when demanded by the national government. The Legislature of Massachusetts distributed the portion of this money which fell to the Commonwealth, among the cities and towns, according to population. The amount which came to this town was \$3,729.

The question came up at a meeting held on the 1st of May, 1837, as to what action the town would take in relation to the matter ; whereupon it was voted,

" That this town agrees to receive from the Treasurer and Receiver

General of the Commonwealth, its proportion of the Surplus Revenue of the United States, in deposit, and will comply with the terms of the several acts passed by the Legislature of the Commonwealth concerning the deposit of the Surplus Revenue.

“ *Voted*, that Isaac Morse, Esq., be the Agent of the town for the purpose of receiving from the Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth, this town's proportion of the said Treasurer's deposit.

*Voted*, that Isaac Morse, Esq., Agent as aforesaid, be and he hereby is authorized to sign a certificate of deposit for the sums of money he may receive from time to time from the said Treasurer and Receiver General of this Commonwealth, binding the town, in its corporate capacity, for the repayment to said Treasurer, of the money so deposited with this town, and any and every part thereof, whenever the same shall be required by said Treasurer and Receiver General, to be by him refunded to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.”

Though provision was thus carefully made for the repayment of the funds deposited, there was probably no expectation on the part of Congress, in depositing, or the States in receiving the deposits, that the money would ever be called for by the nation. Some of the States distributed the money so that the people received it, and used it in paying their own personal expenses. Some of the towns and cities, in certain States, created funds for educational or other useful purposes. This town took the following action, on motion of Mr. Elisha Gregory, viz :

“ *Voted*, that the Treasurer of said town on receipt of the town's proportion of the Surplus Revenue, pay the debts now owing by said town, and the residue, if any, to let to individuals, in small sums, say not less than \$100, nor more than \$500, to any one man, for one year, interest annually, and in case the interest is not paid within twenty days of the time it may fall due, the principal shall be called for.”

In 1842 there was a close vote for Representative to the General Court. Henry Greenwood had 164 votes; Levi Parks, 162; and Moses Hancock, 1.

#### SECTION 6.—CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

In 1840, another Amendment to the Constitution, now marked XIII, came before the people for consideration. It also related to the General Court, like the preceding one, and on the second of April, this town voted in its favor, yeas, 48; nays, 2.



In 1852, on the 7th of May, an Act was passed, calling upon the people to vote upon the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. A majority of the people having voted in favor of the proposed Convention, the election of delegates took place on the 7th of March, 1853. Rev. A. P. Marvin was chosen delegate from this town. The action of the Convention was submitted to the people for approval or rejection, on the 14th of November. This town voted in favor of all the proposed eight Amendments, by large majorities, but they were rejected by the State. Several Amendments substantially like some of those rejected in 1853, were ratified in subsequent years, but it will not be necessary to give a circumstantial statement in respect to them.

It may not be improper to mention that one proposition which was submitted to the Convention by the delegate from this town, and which was withdrawn by the mover, to save it from anticipated defeat, was brought up in the General Court in 1856 and 1857, and ratified by the people May 1st, 1857. It is the Amendment numbered XX, and is in these words :

“ No person shall have the right to vote, or be eligible to office under the Constitution of this Commonwealth, who shall not be able to read the Constitution in the English language, and write his name : *provided, however*, that the provisions of this Amendment shall not apply to any person prevented by a physical disability from complying with its requisitions, nor to any person who now has the right to vote, nor to any persons who shall be sixty years of age, or upwards at the time this Amendment shall take effect.”

#### SECTION 7.—THE PARTY OF FREEDOM.

It was stated, on a former page, that space would be reserved for a brief account of the rise and progress of the party which was distinctively known as opposed, not only to the extension, but the existence of slavery. Nothing will be said in a partisan spirit, nor will it be implied that there were not many in the old parties who were sincerely opposed to human bondage. But the political history of the town cannot be given, without showing how the voters acted in reference to the question of slavery. In the autumn of 1840, two votes were given in this town for James G. Birney, the candidate of the Liberty party for the office of President of the United States. One of these votes was given by Dr. Alvah Godding, the other, probably, by the late Mr. David Poland. For other candidates, about 350 votes were cast at the same election.

In 1842, Samuel E. Sewall had nine votes for the office of Governor. Mr. Luke Rice had by this time, if not before, joined the little band. In 1844, the vote for Mr. Birney, for President, had increased to 43, and for Mr. Sewall, for Governor, to 41. The author was settled in the beginning of this year, and records with pleasure that he belonged to this vanguard of freedom. The whole vote for President was 361. In 1845, Mr. Sewall had 45 votes; the next year, 59; and the next, 71; while the votes of the other parties had decreased. Thus, in 1847, Mr. Briggs had 122 votes; Mr. Cushing, 98; and Mr. Sewall, 71.

The year 1848 witnessed a most exciting struggle. Gen. Taylor was the candidate of the Whig party; Gen. Cass, of the Democratic party, and Mr. Van Buren, by a great political blunder on the part of the friends of freedom, of the Free-Soil party. If the right man had been set up, by the Free-Soilers, their vote in Massachusetts would have been much larger than it was. There was no confidence in Mr. Van Buren as an anti-slavery man. He was brought forward by those who wished to defeat Gen. Cass, in revenge for his desertion of Mr. Van Buren, four years previously. But as he had been discarded by his party on account of his known hostility to the acquisition of Texas as a slaveholding state, he was voted for by many as the least of three evils. The vote in this town was as follows: Gen. Taylor had 98 votes; Gen. Cass, 45; and Mr. Van Buren, 263. Here was a complete revolution. This was true of the County and the whole Congressional district. The Hon. Charles Allen took the place of the Hon. Charles Hudson in Congress. In 1852, Hon. John P. Hale received 176 votes for President; Gen. Scott, 138; and Mr. Pierce, 63. In 1854, the town passed a strong Resolve against Senator Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska bill.

In 1856, the Republican party was formed, and absorbed, with few exceptions, the members of the old Liberty and Free-Soil organizations. The town went strongly for Col. Fremont. In 1860, and also in 1864, the town gave a large majority for Abraham Lincoln, whose name is consecrated forever in the hearts of the friends of human freedom in all lands.

#### VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR.

The vote of Winchendon for candidates for the office of President of the United States, and also for Governor of the Commonwealth, since

the century came in, here follow. In the case of the national officers, the names of the candidates rather than of the presidential electors are given.

|                          |               |                          |                |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1800. <i>President.*</i> |               | Christopher Gore         | had 129 votes. |
| John Adams,              |               | John Quincy Adams        | " 1 "          |
| Thomas Jefferson.        |               | Thomas Knowlton          | " 1 "          |
| <i>Governor.</i>         |               | 1809.                    |                |
| Caleb Strong             | had 45 votes. | Christopher Gore         | " 135 "        |
| Elbridge Gerry           | " 19 "        | Levi Lincoln             | " 55 "         |
| 1801.                    |               | 1810.                    |                |
| Caleb Strong             | " 54 "        | Elbridge Gerry,          | " 46 "         |
| Elbridge Gerry           | " 22 "        | Christopher Gore         | " 126 "        |
| Fisher Ames              | " 1 "         | 1811.                    |                |
| 1802.                    |               | Elbridge Gerry           | " 48 "         |
| Caleb Strong             | " 98 "        | Christopher Gore         | " 108 "        |
| Elbridge Gerry           | " 16 "        | 1812. <i>President.*</i> |                |
| 1803.                    |               | *James Madison,          |                |
| Caleb Strong             | " 77 "        | DeWitt Clinton.          |                |
| Elbridge Gerry           | " 10 "        | <i>Governor.</i>         |                |
| 1804. <i>President.</i>  |               | Caleb Strong             | " 148 "        |
| C. C. Pinckney,          | " 72 "        | Elbridge Gerry           | " 47 "         |
| Thomas Jefferson         | " 41 "        | 1813.                    |                |
| <i>Governor.</i>         |               | Caleb Strong             | " 169 "        |
| Caleb Strong             | " 109 "       | Joseph B. Varnum         | " 39 "         |
| 1805.                    |               | 1814.                    |                |
| Caleb Strong             | " 103 "       | Caleb Strong             | " 167 "        |
| James Sullivan           | " 45 "        | Samuel Dexter            | " 42 "         |
| 1806.                    |               | 1815.                    |                |
| Caleb Strong             | " 120 "       | Caleb Strong             | " 168 "        |
| James Sullivan           | " 47 "        | Samuel Dexter            | 52 "           |
| 1807.                    |               | 1816. <i>President.*</i> |                |
| Caleb Strong             | " 122 "       | James Monroe,            |                |
| James Sullivan           | " 39 "        | Rufus King.              |                |
| Levi Lincoln             | " 1 "         | <i>Governor.</i>         |                |
| 1808. <i>President.*</i> |               | John Brooks              | " 164 "        |
| James Madison,           |               | Samuel Dexter            | " 59 "         |
| Charles C. Pinckney.     |               | 1817.                    |                |
| <i>Governor.</i>         |               | John Brooks              | " 144 "        |
| James Sullivan           | " 40 "        | Henry Dearborn,          | " 44 "         |
|                          |               | John Crosby              | " 1 "          |

\*Not recorded, but Mr. Adams had a large majority.

\*Not recorded.

|                         |                |                         |               |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1818.                   |                | 1829.                   |               |
| John Brooks             | had 130 votes. | Levi Lincoln            | had 87 votes. |
| B. W. Crowninshield     | " 41 "         | Marcus Morton           | " 4 "         |
| 1819.                   |                | 1830.                   |               |
| John Brooks             | " 153 "        | Levi Lincoln            | " 110 "       |
| B. W. Crowninshield     | 28 "           | Marcus Morton           | " 38 "        |
| 1820. <i>President.</i> |                | 1831.                   |               |
| James Monroe            |                | Levi Lincoln            | " 49 "        |
| <i>Governor.</i>        |                | Marcus Morton           | " 33 "        |
| John Brooks             | " 133 "        | Samuel Lathrop          | " 76 "        |
| B. W. Crowninshield     | " 34 "         | 1832. <i>President.</i> |               |
| 1821.                   |                | Andrew Jackson          | " 64 "        |
| John Brooks             | " 119 "        | Henry Clay              | " 85 "        |
| William Eustis          | " 38 "         | William Wirt            | " 38 "        |
| Josiah Quincy           | " 1 "          | <i>Governor.</i>        |               |
| 1822.                   |                | Levi Lincoln            | " 73 "        |
| John Brooks             | " 116 "        | Marcus Morton           | " 43 "        |
| William Eustis          | " 44 "         | Samuel Lathrop          | " 65 "        |
| 1823.                   |                | John Davis              | " 52 "        |
| William Eustis          | " 64 "         | 1833.                   |               |
| Harrison Gray Otis      | " 140 "        | John Q. Adams           | " 57 "        |
| 1824. <i>President.</i> |                | Marcus Morton           | " 48 "        |
| John Quincy Adams       | " 49 "         | 1834.                   |               |
| Andrew Jackson          | " 30 "         | John Davis              | " 137 "       |
| <i>Governor.</i>        |                | Marcus Morton           | " 66 "        |
| William Eustis.         |                | 1835.                   |               |
| 1825.                   |                | Edward Everett          | " 88 "        |
| Levi Lincoln            | " 77 "         | Marcus Morton           | " 69 "        |
| William Sullivan        | " 3 "          | 1836. <i>President.</i> |               |
| 1826.                   |                | Martin Van Buren        | " 77 "        |
| Levi Lincoln            | " 66 "         | Daniel Webster          | " 113 "       |
| Samuel Hubbard          | " 62 "         | <i>Governor.</i>        |               |
| James Lloyd             | " 1 "          | Edward Everett          | " 113 "       |
| 1827.                   |                | Marcus Morton           | " 75 "        |
| Levi Lincoln            | " 92 "         | 1837.                   |               |
| James Lloyd             | " 2 "          | Edward Everett          | " 181 "       |
| 1828. <i>President.</i> |                | Marcus Morton           | " 110 "       |
| Andrew Jackson          | " 00 "         | 1838.                   |               |
| John Quincy Adams       | " 82 "         | Edward Everett          | " 165 "       |
| <i>Governor.</i>        |                | Marcus Morton           | " 117 "       |
| Levi Lincoln            | " 87 "         | 1839.                   |               |
| Marcus Morton           | " 2 "          | Edward Everett          | " 158 "       |
|                         |                | Marcus Morton           | " 181 "       |

1840. *President.*

Wm. Henry Harrison had 211 votes.  
 Martin Van Buren " 125 "

*Governor.*

Marcus Morton " 145 "  
 John Davis " 202 "

## 1841.

John Davis " 158 "  
 Marcus Morton " 138 "

## 1842.

John Davis " 163 "  
 Marcus Morton " 153 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 9 "

## 1843.

Marcus Morton " 160 "  
 Geo. N. Briggs " 160 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 16 "

1844. *President.*

James K. Polk " 143 "  
 Henry Clay " 175 "  
 James G. Birney " 43 "

*Governor.*

George N. Briggs " 183 "  
 George Bancroft " 145 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 41 "

## 1845.

George N. Briggs 174 "  
 Isaac Davis " 119 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 45 "

## 1846.

George N. Briggs 123 "  
 Isaac Davis " 89 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 59 "

## 1847.

George N. Briggs " 122 "  
 Caleb Cushing " 98 "  
 Samuel E. Sewall " 71 "

1848. *President.*

Zachary Taylor " 98 "  
 Lewis Cass " 45 "  
 Martin Van Buren " 263 "

*Governor.*

George N. Briggs " 75 "  
 Caleb Cushing " 27 "  
 Stephen C. Phillips " 220 "

## 1849.

George N. Briggs had 114 votes.  
 Stephen C. Phillips " 169 "  
 George S. Boutwell " 25 "

## 1850.

George N. Briggs " 136 "  
 Stephen C. Phillips " 169 "  
 George S. Boutwell " 45 "  
 Francis Cogswell " 11 "

## 1851.

George S. Boutwell " 79 "  
 John G. Palfrey " 186 "  
 Robert C. Winthrop " 149 "

1852. *President.*

Franklin Pierce " 63 "  
 Winfield Scott " 138 "  
 John P. Hale " 176 "

*Governor.*

John H. Clifford " 155 "  
 Horace Mann " 190 "  
 Henry W. Bishop " 80 "

## 1853.

Emory Washburn " 122 "  
 Henry Wilson " 176 "  
 H. W. Bishop " 60 "

## 1854.

Henry J. Gardner " 260 "  
 Henry Wilson " 44 "  
 Emory Washburn " 52 "  
 H. W. Bishop " 19 "

## 1855.

Henry J. Gardner " 164 "  
 Julius Rockwell " 110 "  
 Samuel H. Walley " 44 "  
 Erasmus D. Beach " 49 "

1856. *President.*

James Buchanan " 77 "  
 John C. Fremont " 400 "  
 John Bell " 20 "

*Governor.*

Henry J. Gardner " 279 "  
 Erasmus D. Beach " 79 "  
 Luther V. Bell " 19 "

|                         |                |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1857.                   |                | 1862.                   |                |
| Nathaniel P. Banks      | had 209 votes. | John A. Andrew          | had 240 votes. |
| Henry J. Gardner        | " 111 "        | Charles Devins          | " 99 "         |
| Erasmus D. Beach        | " 57 "         | <i>Congress.</i>        |                |
| 1858.                   |                | William B. Washburn     | " 338 "        |
| Nathaniel P. Banks      | " 206 "        | Charles Brinblecom      | " 2 "          |
| Amos A. Lawrence        | " 41 "         | 1863.                   |                |
| E. D. Beach             | " 46 "         | <i>Governor.</i>        |                |
| 1859.                   |                | John A. Andrew          | " 216 "        |
| Nathaniel P. Banks      | " 199 "        | Henry W. Paine          | " 60 "         |
| Benjamin F. Butler      | " 76 "         | 1864. <i>President.</i> |                |
| George N. Briggs        | " 37 "         | Abraham Lincoln         | " 407 "        |
| 1860. <i>President.</i> |                | George B. McClellan     | " 105 "        |
| Abraham Lincoln         | " 361 "        | <i>Governor.</i>        |                |
| Stephen A. Douglas      | " 82 "         | John A. Andrew          | " 402 "        |
| John Bell               | " 45 "         | Henry W. Paine          | " 107 "        |
| John C. Breckenridge    | " 1 "          | 1865.                   |                |
| <i>Governor.</i>        |                | Alexander H. Bullock    | " 218 "        |
| John A. Andrew          | " 344 "        | Darius N. Couch         | " 33 "         |
| Erasmus D. Beach        | " 89 "         | 1866.                   |                |
| Amos A. Lawrence        | " 45 "         | Alexander H. Bullock    | " 275 "        |
| 1861.                   |                | Theodore H. Sweetzer    | 35 "           |
| John A. Andrew          | " 312 "        | 1867.                   |                |
| Isaac Davis             | " 101 "        | Alexander H. Bullock    | " 418 "        |
|                         |                | John Quincy Adams       | " 118 "        |

It will be seen, by reviewing the above election returns, that public opinion, in this town, has set in a steady current, almost without deviation, from the beginning. The inhabitants in the "times which tried men's souls," were strong patriots. They either entered the service, in the Revolution, or if they remained at home, they contributed largely according to their means, in sustaining the Continental Congress through the mighty struggle. In the Shays troubles they felt the pressure of the times, and sympathized with those who sought and obtained a redress of grievances; but they never, in their corporate capacity, sanctioned any treasonable, or unlawful measures; and not many, if indeed more than one of their number, joined the insurgents in acts of violence.

Winchendon went with the majority of New England, in the support of the measures of the Federal party, as long as that party maintained an existence. For a single year, when matters were somewhat confused and mixed up throughout the State, in regard to the best mode

of dealing with the liquor question, the vote of the town was given for Gov. Morton. In 1853-6, the people here, with some exceptions, joined in that singular and brief episode in our political life, the American or "Know-Nothing" movement. Still later, in 1848, the town broke away from the Whig party; but in this, only anticipated, by a few years, the course of the whole State. The love of freedom has ever characterized the citizens; but this has always been accompanied by a regard for law, and a proper respect for constituted authority. It was then but a natural effect of our whole history, when the inhabitants, with remarkable unanimity, gave men and means, in large measure, to aid in suppressing the wicked and infamous rebellion of the slave-holding oligarchy, in the years 1861-65. The spirit of the fathers and mothers in the old heroic days of the republic, burned brightly in the hearts of their children. The great cause for which the Pilgrims came hither, and for which the successive generations of their descendants contended, was vindicated in the last great war of liberty and law;

"For Freedom's battle oft begun,  
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,  
Though baffled oft, is ever won."

## CHAPTER XVII.—SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

“Pity the sorrows of a poor old man  
Whose trembling limbs have borne him to your door,  
Whose days are dwindled to the shortest span;  
Oh, give relief, and heaven shall bless your store.”

THE BEGGAR'S PETITION.

## SECTION I.—PROVISION FOR THE POOR IN EARLY TIMES.

It is hardly supposable that there were any persons in the township for several years after its settlement, who needed support from the community. Such persons have not the health, or the wit, or the enterprise, out of which new settlers are made. They would not be encouraged to come; and in some cases, as soon as they appeared, they were warned out of town. If the warning was not sufficient, the constable was called upon to convey them to the place whence they came, or wherever they had a legal settlement.

When, in the course of time, by reason of age or infirmity, adults, or when by the loss of friends, children were in need of protection, the kindness of neighbors was relied upon to meet their wants. Sometimes poor families were aided occasionally from the cellars and wardrobes of those who were more prosperous. Simple-minded and half-witted persons were allowed to stroll around the country, and pick up a precarious living from the kind-hearted. Not seldom they were the sport of thoughtless or cruel boys. Beggars were allowed to go from house to house, and being almost always of the same nationality, and not being numerous, they were fed, and to a certain extent, clothed. Sometimes individuals or families who were permanently dependent, received aid from the town. But while none were permitted to suffer, the general sentiment of the public did not encourage laziness or mendicancy. Self-help was one of the laws of Puritan society, while there was the utmost readiness to help those who were really in need of pecuniary aid.

Some years after the incorporation of the town, the Records mention



the name of a woman who was supplied with some of the necessaries of life, including *rum*. According to the ideas prevalent in those days, a moderate amount of spirituous liquor was considered as a proper allowance to the poor. Still later, the widow of an early settler, and herself the mother of a large number of respectable descendants, was aided by the town. It is thought best not to give the names of those who received support from the public, as there is a proper delicacy due to those who are unfortunate.

Another matter, referred to under another head, may be noticed in this connection. In 1794, January 6, a meeting was called to "take into consideration the request of Sally Lord." Upon inquiry it is found that she was the only daughter of Rev. Mr. Stimpson who survived infancy. One son also, Luther Stimpson, who married Sally McElwain, grew up to manhood. The daughter of Mr. Stimpson became the wife of Bemsley Lord, and had a dowry of about one thousand dollars. After getting possession of as much of this as he could, he deserted his wife, and went off to distant parts.

In consideration of her hard fortune, or for some other unknown reason, the town voted that she "should improve the house" she then occupied; and "also the red shop," during the town's pleasure. The Selectmen were to assist her in "conducting the matter according to their best discretion." So far as this action sprung from grateful remembrance of the first minister's services, it was honorable to the town. Mrs. Lord afterwards became the wife of a Mr. Brown, a man of character and respectability, and had several children.

#### SECTION 2.—BIDDING OFF THE POOR.

The next step in the way of supporting the poor, was the singular, and now almost forgotten practice of having them put up at auction, and bid off to the lowest bidder. This was sometimes called "selling the poor." Careless readers of the Records might hastily infer that this was a relic of white slavery, when it was simply a mode of providing homes for the weak and indigent. Suppose a family consisting of an infirm man, who yet might do some slight work; of an old woman, who could render a little aid in the household; and a boy old enough to drive the cows and drop corn. How shall they be provided for? Instead of going from house to house, to find a home for them, this

course was pursued. On an appointed day, a vendue was held, and men were called upon to say what they would charge for the support of the family, for one year. The bidders would take into consideration their own conveniences for having such a family in their houses ; what \* their board and clothing would cost ; how much they could reasonably expect to get in return by way of labor ; and putting all things together, they made their bids. He who would take the family for the least sum of money, had them put into his charge, by the Selectmen, or the Overseers of the Poor. But they exercised their discretion. If the man who made the lowest bid was not of good character ; if he were hard and cruel ; if he was one who would scrimp and abuse the poor, the officers could decline to deliver these wards of the town to his keeping. Besides, it was often stipulated that children thus “ bid off,” should have so many weeks or months of schooling, annually. In addition to these safeguards, an enlightened and humane public sentiment went far to guard the poor from ill-treatment. It was competent for the Selectmen, at any time, to take the custody of the poor into their own hands, if they were subject to abuse or unkindness. Perhaps this was the best policy that could be pursued before the towns entered upon the more modern plan of providing houses and farms for the support of the poor.

What were the sentiments of the inhabitants of Winchendon, in 1817, in relation to this important subject, may be inferred from the following action. On the first of December, a committee was chosen to consider the measures most conducive to the interest of the town for the support of the poor. Through their chairman, Lt. Paul Raymond, they reported the following, probably from the pen of Esq. Henshaw.

“ They are not insensible to the importance of the subject committed to their consideration, nor the obligations due from society to extend the hand of charity in comfortably supporting those whom adverse fortune has brought to want.”

After a full preamble, containing general principles, the Report recommends :

“ 1. That the Overseers of the Poor, after posting, shall receive such sealed proposals as may be offered, for each lot of persons described in the poster, on the first of November.

2. Children shall be put out to live with some suitable person, until 14, with due regard to schooling and clothing. Then bind them till the time they become free by law. If boys, put them to some useful trade.

3. Persons out of town, but legally the poor thereof, to be immediately brought into the town, and afforded necessary assistance.

4. Persons not applying for assistance, but not constantly and industriously following some calling from which to gain subsistence, to be noticed and brought to use necessary industry, and their children bound out to some useful trade or employment. In this regard, the Overseers of the Poor rigidly to enforce the law.

They further recommend to the inhabitants of the town to discountenance as far as possible, the removal within the limits thereof, of people in indigent circumstances, by which means the town is frequently put to great trouble and expense."

The closing paragraph of the Report touches upon a subject which perhaps would find its appropriate place in another chapter, but as it refers to one of the principal causes of pauperism, it falls in naturally here. It is as follows :

"To one other consideration, your committee call the attention of their fellow citizens, viz : to licensed houses and retailers. The laws regulating each, are good and wholesome, but we regret to say that in our opinion, they are broken with an impunity which requires redress. They therefore recommend that whenever it shall come to the knowledge of the Selectmen, that any tavern-keeper or retailer shall sell spirituous liquors to persons, having been forbidden to do the same, according to law, that they immediately cause a prosecution to be commenced against such offenders, and if persisted in, withhold from them their approbation for another year."

#### SECTION 3.—TOWN-FARM AND POOR-HOUSE.

The time had finally come for the initiation of a new policy in regard to the employment and support of the indigent and the helpless. In 1828, February 6, the town chose a committee,—Benjamin Adams, Joseph Robbins, Isaac Morse, Israel Whitcomb and Jacob Woodbury,—"to see on what terms the town can purchase a farm suitable for supporting the poor, and also an estimate of the probable expenses of stocking the farm, and also the actual expenses of hiring a superintendent." This committee brought in a Report, on the 18th, which concludes in these words : "Your committee beg leave to represent, that in their opinion, it is expedient for the town to appoint a committee of seven to purchase or hire a farm on which to support and employ the poor," etc.

The following gentlemen were chosen a committee for the above-mentioned purpose, viz: Isaac Morse, Benjamin Adams, Israel Whitcomb, Jacob Wales, Amasa Whitney, Jacob Woodbury and Ephraim Murdock. On the third of March following, the committee submitted the following

#### REPORT.

“ We, the subscribers, a committee chosen by the town to purchase a farm, or in some suitable way to provide for the maintenance of the poor, have attended to that service, and after duly considering the subject, having economy and philanthropy for our guide, have come to the conclusion to purchase a farm. And accordingly have purchased the farm on which Mr. Lewis Wilder lately lived, for the sum of twenty-two hundred and seventy-seven dollars, interest after the first April next. Also have made some arrangements for a considerable part of the money that will probably be wanted this spring. Your committee have further agreed with Mr. James Fry for one year as Superintendent, for the sum of two hundred and ten dollars, himself, and wife, and two children; said Fry to find bed only for his own family; his other furniture and farming tools to be used when wanted for the benefit of the town, by the town making good what may be broken. Said Fry to make proper allowance for lost time, in case of sickness of himself or wife. Likewise have contracted with Mr. Fry for one yoke of oxen, two cows, about two tons of good English hay, and one shote, for one hundred and thirty dollars. Also, a quantity of pork and beef, grain, butter, potatoes, which will probably amount to near two hundred dollars more. More stock and provisions will doubtless be wanted.”

The committee, in closing, take up the strain of their predecessors, in 1817, and refer as follows to *the* great source of pauperism and crime in the community. They felt the effects of *license*, and therefore spoke in plain terms.

“ In view of the alarming increase and expense of paupers, your committee would state for your consideration, and particularly the Selectmen, the expediency of immediately posting those who make too free use of spirituous liquors, and committing to the work-house those who are idle and mis-spending their time. Your committee further recommend that the Overseers be requested to make out a judicious, mild, coercive code of by-laws for the due regulation of said poor-house.

At this meeting the town directed that the poor-house should be a work-house; and authorized the Overseers to devise, adopt and enforce

a suitable system for the regulation thereof. The Selectmen were authorized to borrow \$1000 for the purchase of the poor-farm.

The "posting" referred to in the above extract, was an ancient custom by which men who were not wholly lost to shame, were sometimes coerced into good behavior. If a man was idle and given to haunting taverns and to drinking; in modern phrase, if he became an intemperate "loafer," after due admonition, he was "posted," and all persons were forbidden to supply him with intoxicating drinks. One citizen of this town, who was not conscious to what a depth of degradation he had descended, till rudely awakened by this process, remarked that "it was worse than dying."

The recommendation of the committee that a code of by-laws should be drawn up for the government of the farm and work-house, was adopted, and in the year 1832, the Rules and Regulations were put in force. At the same time, it was voted to "build a work-house on the poor-farm, the ensuing year." Esq. Murdock, Col. Adams and Israel Whitcomb were chosen a committee to see the work done.

The Rules and Regulations above mentioned, were drawn up with care, and seem well adapted to secure good government and proper management in the care of the unfortunate. Owing to their length, and their liability to alteration, from time to time, it is not deemed necessary to insert them here. It is sufficient to state that while they confer all needful power on the keeper, they also place him under needful restraints, so that the poor and weak shall not be abused.

At subsequent times, additions have been made to the farm, and alterations in the buildings, as necessity or convenience required. In 1836, it was voted to have the buildings on the poor-farm insured. In 1837, it was voted to purchase a wood lot for the poor-farm,—the Grout lot, 35 acres, for \$625. In April, 1839, a committee was authorized to build "necessary additions to the town farm-house."

The Insane were formerly provided for at the poor-farm to a greater extent than in recent years, since better arrangements and treatment have come into vogue in Hospitals and Retreats for the Insane. In accordance with this practice, the town voted, in 1842, March 7, that E. Murdock, Jr., Webster Whitney and John Cutter, be a committee "to build a house in addition for the insane." A grant of \$500 was made for the purpose.

In June, 1849, the Overseers of the poor were directed to send "Mr. Cheshire to Liverpool if it can be done for reasonable expense." He was an Englishman who "had seen better days," but was now in reduced circumstances. Mr. John D. Dunbar joined with the town in sending him to his native land, with suitable clothing. He was sent at an expense of \$59.00 to the town.

#### SECTION 5.—EXPENSE OF SUPPORTING THE POOR.

The annual expense for sustaining the poor-house, above the income, during the last twenty years, is given below. The expenses in the column relating to the poor-farm, include the pay of the master, but omit the interest of money paid for the farm, tools, &c. Nor is account taken of improvements.

| COST OF POOR FARM. |          | SUPPORT OF POOR AWAY FROM FARM. |          |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1848,-----         | \$202 71 | -----                           | \$251 51 |
| 1850,-----         | 255 12   | Not given.                      |          |
| 1851,-----         | 278 30   | -----                           | 443 90   |
| 1852,-----         | 420 65   | -----                           | 431 44   |
| 1853,-----         | 469 61   | -----                           | 576 55   |
| 1854,-----         | 286 84   | -----                           | 234 77   |
| 1855,-----         | 385 34   | -----                           | 259 59   |
| 1856,-----         | 582 73   | -----                           | 72 08    |
| 1857,-----         | 589 82   | -----                           | 125 50   |
| 1858,-----         | 800 33   | -----                           | 326 18   |
| 1859,-----         | 650 12   | -----                           | 254 53   |
| 1860,-----         | 457 22   | -----                           | 197 26   |
| 1861,-----         | 538 85   | -----                           | 273 09   |
| 1862,-----         | 665 79   | -----                           | 336 94   |
| 1863,-----         | 443 85   | -----                           | 269 87   |
| 1864,-----         | 360 72   | -----                           | 232 73   |
| 1865,-----         | 256 87   | -----                           | 340 13   |
| 1866,-----         | 253 14   | -----                           | 714 01   |
| 1867,-----         | 574 38   | -----                           | 681 80   |
| 1868,-----         | 1125 30  | -----                           | 331 62   |

In the above tables the year must be understood as terminating on or near the first of March, and the amount set against any year refers to the year preceding. For example, 1868 refers to the year beginning on the first of March, 1867, and ending March 1, 1868.

In concluding this chapter, it may be truly said, that the town has been guided by "philanthropy" as well as "economy," in caring for the poor and friendless. The farm is a good one; the house is large

and convenient; the water is pure; the location is pleasant and healthful; the supply of food and clothing has been sufficient; the oversight of the Overseers has been vigilant, and the Masters with their wives, have been faithful and efficient. The following are the names of those who have had the care of the poor, and the management of the farm.

|                        |           |          |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Mr. James Fry,         | from 1828 | to 1829. |
| Mr. Lincoln Reed,      | " 1829    | " 1831.  |
| Dea. John Cutter,      | " 1831    | " 1837.  |
| Mr. Joel Brooks,       | " 1837    | " 1839.  |
| Mr. Levi Hancock,      | " 1839    | " 1841.  |
| Dea. John Cutter,      | " 1841    | " 1853.  |
| Mr. Gilman Wyman,      | " 1853    | " 1855.  |
| Mr. Reuben Bemis,      | " 1855    | " 1856.  |
| Capt. Joseph Whitney,  | " 1856    | " 1858.  |
| Mr. Lewis,             | " 1858    | " 1862.  |
| Mr. Josiah J. Dunn,    | " 1862    | " 1866.  |
| Mr. John Raymond, Jr., | " 1866    | " 1868.  |

Without any disparagement to others, it is proper to say that the town is much indebted to Dea. Cutter for his management of the property, and that the inmates of the poor-house have great occasion to be grateful to him and Mrs. Cutter, for their fidelity, patience and kindness. They—and the same may be said in general, of their successors—have felt an interest in the spiritual welfare of their wards, and it has been the practice to have religious meetings for the benefit of the inmates of the house, whenever the ministers of the town could attend them; and also at other times; besides the regular devotions of the family.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor," says one who speaks in the name of the great Father of all. This is a benediction which a town as well as an individual may covet. And when we remember that no one is exempt from the liability to find his home in the alms-house, the duty to sympathize with the poor is strengthened. There have been, and are still, representatives of some of the most respectable families in the town, in the poor-house. Some of these are persons of great moral worth, and they appreciate every attention and every act of considerate kindness. "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord."

## CHAPTER XVIII.—WINCHENDON AT LAW.

"I oft have heard him say how he admir'd  
Men of your large profession, that could speak  
To every cause, and things mere contraries,  
Till they were hoarse again, and all be law."

BEN JOHNSON.

"The glorious uncertainty of the law."

COKE.

The town has been involved, at different periods, in legal perplexities and expense. Sometimes, the case had reference to the support of the poor. The question was, what town is under legal obligation to take care of this individual or family? At other times, legal measures were taken to collect taxes and other dues. At others, the town was indicted by the Grand Jury, or mulcted by the proper authority in expense for not keeping the public roads in good repair. Some of these cases have been glanced at in connection with other topics. In this place, a more particular, though brief review of the town's experience in relation to "the glorious uncertainty of the law" will be taken.

## SECTION I.—TAX AND POVERTY CASES.

In 1789, Jonathan Stimpson was thrown into jail on account of the non-payment of his taxes. But instead of paying them to get out of jail, he for some reason, remained there, and it became necessary for the town to see to his support. The creditor was obliged to pay the board of the poor debtor in jail. Besides, if the father were shut up, who would support his family? Rather a serious question for the town to decide. An article in the warrant for the meeting held on the 8th of May, was "to see what method the town will take to said Stimpson and his family." And after consideration, the town voted "to let out said Stimpson upon the best conditions for the town they can." This was not so much a case in law, as an effort, by legal means, to obtain what was due. Probably the cost was far greater than the taxes due.



It is mentioned in another place, that Thaddeus Bowman, and his son by the same name, left the town while in its debt. After suitable efforts to obtain its dues, the town went to law and obtained a decision in its favor. The land of the Bowmans, in Weathersfield, Vt., was taken by execution, and Mr. Amos Heywood, in September, 1792, was chosen agent to make sale of the property so taken. On the 24th of September, Samuel Prentice was authorized to prosecute those who had not fulfilled their obligations in respect to building the new meeting-house.

Towards the close of the same year, the town had a law-suit before the Court of Common Pleas, at Worcester, with Luther Stimpson, respecting the support of Mrs. Thankful Stimpson. She was his grandmother, now aged, and as it appears, dependent. Moses Hale was agent of the town, in conducting the case. He employed Esq. Paine and Esq. Strong as counsel. The decision was in favor of the town.

In the year 1799, the Grand Inquest for the body of the county, found an indictment against the town, for not making, and keeping in repair a new county road that was laid out in 1797, in the northerly part of the town. Moses Hale was chosen the agent of the town to appear in its behalf at the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to make answer.

#### SECTION 2.—THE MINISTER'S CASE.

The most expensive case, and the one that enlisted the most feeling, in the whole history of the town, was that in reference to the damages due to Rev. Mr. Brown, in consideration of his withdrawing from the exercise of his ministry in this place. This was laid before Referees, whose names are given in the Chapter on the Town as a Parish. An account of that trial would be read with intense interest even at this late day. The Referees were all laymen, chosen for their competency to deal with such cases. The lawyers, one of them the elder Levi Lincoln, of Worcester, soon after made Attorney General of the United States, and the other, the Hon. Mr. Bigelow, of Groton, of equal eminence at the bar, conducted the cause with consummate ability. The parties were really the whole community, divided into two hostile sections, the majority of the church sympathizing with their minister, while the majority of the town were opposed to him. These thronged the church, filling the seats on the lower floor and the galleries, while people from other towns came in to crowd every vacant space. The town

strove on the one hand, to reduce as much as possible, the damages claimed by their minister, even at the sacrifice of his reputation ; while he, on the other hand, maintained his right to an unsullied name, and to a fair compensation for the breaking up of his settlement. The counsel contended as those who are stimulated by the aroused passions of their clients, while the Referees deliberated as those who were conscious of the feeling that it would scarcely be possible to do right without incurring the hatred of one or the other party in suit. The tradition is that the eminent lawyers maintained their high reputation on this occasion by the legal knowledge and eloquence which they displayed. The decision was in favor of Mr. Brown, and the expense to the town, including damages,—nearly \$1000—and costs, must have been from \$1200 to \$1500. This was a large sum for that day. Besides, the loss of time, if time had any value to the crowds who filled the meeting-house, day after day, was still greater.

### SECTION 3.—THE SLAVE CASE.

It is a curious fact that the question whether chattel slavery ever existed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was settled, in part, by a case in which this town was involved as a party at law. The subject is referred to in an article which appeared in the *Historical Magazine*, (N. Y.) in 1866, written apparently in a spirit hostile to the fair fame of the State. A reply to this article appeared in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*. A concise statement of this case belongs to this period of our narrative.

On the 22d of August, 1804, the town voted “ that the Selectmen should see and take care of the matter concerning the negro, that the town of Ipswich has notified this town to take and support.” No name is given, but it is supposed that the same person is referred to in the following action, taken on the 4th of the next March, (1805.) “ Chose Thos. Graton and Thos. Greenwood, agents to look into the matter of Eden London, (named in the Records of the Court, *Edom*,) a poor negro man, and find out where he ought to be supported.” On the 6th of May following, it was farther voted, “ that the agents, with the assistance of the Selectmen, notify the town of Weston, or the town of Hatfield, or any other town, as soon as they can gain knowledge, which town said London was left a citizen, according to law.” Later still, on the

18th of August, 1806, the agents were directed to "carry on the suit against Hatfield, concerning Eden London, according to the best counsel they can get, to a final issue." At the same time a grant of \$50 was made to carry on the lawsuit.

The contest was now between Hatfield and Winchendon. It had first been brought before a justice of the peace in Worcester county. It was appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, of Worcester county, where the decision was in favor of Hatfield, affirming the decision of the justice. The case was tried, at the December term, 1806. It was next appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court, March term, 1808. The record of the Court of Common Pleas, as certified by the presiding justice, was as follows :

"WORCESTER, ss. *Court of Common Pleas, December, 1806.*

The town of Winchendon, in the county of Worcester, complainants against the town of Hatfield, in the county of Hampshire, before this court by appeal from the adjudication of the Hon. Dwight Foster, Esq., one of the justices of the peace for said county, setting forth in their complaint, that *Edom London*, a negro man, now resident in said town of Winchendon, is poor and become chargeable to said town, and that the said town of Hatfield is the place of his lawful settlement, and praying that it may be so adjudged.

The facts in the case, from the evidence before the court, are, that said Edom, in the year 1757, was the proper estate of one Samuel Bond, and then by him sold to William Williams of Weston; that some time in the year 1760, and after the decease of the said Williams, said Edom was set off as the estate of said Williams to the wife of Oliver Partridge of Hatfield, who was the daughter of said deceased, as part of her portion in said deceased's estate, and then went to live with said Partridge, in said town of Hatfield, and continued his servant until the 2d day of October, A. D. 1767, at which time he was sold by said Partridge to John Ingersoll, Esq., of Westfield, in said county of Hampshire, and continued with him about three years; was then sold by said Ingersoll to John M'Cluster of Longmeadow, lived with him a few weeks; was then sold by said John M'Cluster to Joshua Holcomb, of Simsbury in Connecticut, and lived with him about four years; then was sold by said Holcomb to William Bond, of Lincoln, and lived with him a short time; was then sold by said Bond to Thomas Cowdin, of Fitchburg, and lived with him three or four years; was then sold by said Cowdin to Jonathan Stimson, of Winchendon; and the day following he absconded and enlisted in the eight months' service in Cambridge, and before the expiration of the said eight months' service, and

in the year 1775, was sold by said Stimson to Thomas Sawyer of Winchendon with whom he lived some time ; then he was sold by said Sawyer to Daniel Goodridge, of the same Winchendon, in the month of July, 1776, with whom he lived about five weeks ; then he enlisted into the three years' service, and the said Goodridge received the whole of his bounty, and part of his wages."

Such was the case before the Court of Common Pleas, which affirmed the judgment of justice Foster, and adjudged that London's settlement was not in Hatfield. It may be said here, in passing, that according to tradition, Eden London had his freedom from Mr. Goodridge, on condition that he, London, should take the place of his master, in the three years' service.

The case was brought up before the Supreme Court, at Worcester, in September, 1807, when *Upham* appeared in behalf of the plaintiffs, that is, the town of Winchendon. The case was continued, and at the March term, 1808, *Bigelow* argued the case for this town. After hearing arguments, the Court, Chief Justice Parsons, presiding, decided as follows :

"It is stated that the pauper was once the slave of Oliver Partridge, living several years with him at Hatfield, where his master was settled. The pauper then acquired a derivative settlement in Hatfield. Afterwards his master Partridge sold him to J. Ingersoll, Esq., an inhabitant of, and settled in Westfield. There he lived several years with his new master, and then he lost his settlement in Hatfield, by gaining a new derivative settlement in Westfield. As it is not stated that the pauper, at any time afterwards, again lived in Hatfield, either as a slave or freeman, it is unnecessary to pursue the case further. Having lost his settlement in Hatfield, and not having regained a new settlement there, the defendants are not liable for his maintenance, and the judgment must be affirmed with costs."

This decision relieved Hatfield from the support of Eden London, and threw the costs of the suit upon Winchendon ; but must Winchendon continue to support him? It was claimed by the town's counsel, Mr. Bigelow, among other things, that a slave could obtain a settlement by length of residence, and not merely derivatively from his master. It was farther claimed, that by two decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court, it had been decided that slavery could not exist in this Commonwealth. In the first action referred to, involving the right of the master, which came before the Supreme Judicial Court, after the establishment of the

Constitution, the judges declared, that, by virtue of the first article of the declaration of rights, slavery in this State was no more. Afterwards in an action by the inhabitants of Littleton, brought to maintain the expenses of supporting a negro, tried in Middlesex, October term, 1796, the Chief Justice, in directing the jury, stated as the unanimous opinion of the court, that a negro born in the State before the present constitution, was born free, although born of a female slave. If this decision should stand, then London was legally a free man, when he lived in Hatfield, and had a settlement in his own right, which he had never forfeited, since he had been removed without any regard to his own wishes. But Judge Parsons and his Associates dismissed this matter with the curt remark: "It is however very certain that the general practice and common usage had been opposed to this opinion." The decision settled this point: that "before the Revolution the settlement of a slave always followed that of his master." Eden's residence was here therefore, because his last three masters lived in this town. Again the decision affirmed that slaves when "manumitted, could acquire a settlement in their own right, and if they had resided a year in the town where they were manumitted, they could not then be warned out."

Whichever of these decisions of the Court was right; the more humane one of the Court in 1796, or the possibly more legal one of the Court in 1808; the town was obliged to support Eden London in his old age, and as he did service in the war of independence, it is to be hoped that the maintenance was cheerfully rendered. It has come down to us that he was a "pretty smart man." He was probably an old man by this time, as it is fifty-one years from the time he began to figure, or rather to be figured, in these sales, to the final decision.

He was buried in the old graveyard in the Centre, in the northeast corner.

#### SECTION 4.—LATER CASES.

In 1821, August 27, the town chose Ephraim Murdock, Esq., to carry on the lawsuit against the town of LUNENBURG. He became convinced that the right of the case was with Lunenburg, and therefore kept the case out of Court. He settled on the best terms possible with the agent of that town on condition that all the papers, in the case—evidence, &c.—should be delivered to him. This was done, but not

long after, as he told the story, he received notice from the "whelp" that he had collected the evidence anew, thus securing his town's claim for the future, in case the memory of men should fail.

The facts of the case, in brief, were these. A woman, who shall be nameless, living when the town was organized, not far from the east school-house, bore illegitimate children. Some were white, and some were not so white. She removed to Lunenburg, but her legal domicile was in Winchendon. Some of her white, and some of her colored children, about fifty years afterwards, became chargeable to the town. The authorities of Lunenburg traced them to Winchendon, since the place of their birth is privileged with the support of such indigent offspring, and this town made an allowance to Lunenburg to pay the expense of keeping them.

Perhaps ignorance of the law in such cases made and provided, led the town to contest the case. When Esq. Murdock found what the law required, he made the best terms practicable with the rather sharp agent on the other side.

For the credit of the family it should be stated; that one of the colored grandsons of the woman aforesaid, was among the first volunteers from this town, in the late war of freedom.

The REED case was the next of sufficient importance to be noticed. A teamster by the name of Henry Reed, used to drive a long team of horses through the town, from Brattleborough to Boston. In 1843 he brought a complaint against the town for a defective bridge near the Robbins mill, on the old Fitzwilliam turnpike. The matter was submitted to reference, and was heard in the winter of 1844, in the old hall of Mr. Milton S. Morse's tavern. Reed's counsel was Hon. Nathaniel Wood, of Fitchburg; Hon. Emory Washburn, since judge, governor and professor in the Harvard Law School, appeared for the town. His argument is still remembered by the writer, as characterized by candor and force, without any resort to finesse and cunning.

The case was this. The bridge needed repairs, and the workmen were about to begin, when a teamster came along who desired to pass. The bridge was strengthened by throwing on loose planks, when the team went over in safety. Reed came from below toward night, and stopped at the tavern till morning. Hearing of the bridge and wishing to avoid the other road, which was then in a bad state, he applied to Mark Whitcomb, Esq., Selectman, and requested permission to pass over the bridge.



EPHRAIM MURDOCK, ESQ.





In pure kindness of heart, the Esq. rode up early in the morning, and told the workmen to let the plank remain until Reed had passed. The latter came along, and in crossing the bridge, either by accident or design, ran his off wheels outside of the end of the top planks. The wheels cut through the lower planks, and the load was turned over into the stream. He claimed that the order from the Selectman made the town responsible for the whole width of the bridge, and his lawyer succeeded in leading the Referee to that conclusion. The whole expense was about eight hundred dollars.

The SANDERS case, so called, came up in 1849, and on the 12th of November, Harvey Wyman was chosen agent of the town. He employed the Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas as counsel; Hon. N. Wood appeared for the plaintiff, which was the town of Fitchburg. The case was singular, in some of its aspects, and will therefore be given at some length, and principally in the words of Cushing's Report. Lemuel Sanders and family became paupers while living in Fitchburg. The question was this: Did they have a legal settlement in Winchendon?

It was claimed by the plaintiffs that the paupers had gained a residence in Winchendon in the twelfth mode pointed out in the Revised Statutes ch. 45, § 1, by a residence of ten years, and the assessment and payment of taxes five years during that period in the town of Winchendon; and it was admitted that Sanders was assessed and paid a poll tax in Winchendon, as of the 1st of May, 1832, and in each succeeding year until 1840.

Sanders was called as a witness by the plaintiff, to prove his ten years' residence in this town. Everything turned on his intention. About the last of June, 1831, he came to Winchendon, and went to work for John D. Dunbar. He lived here until October 26, 1842, when he removed to Fitchburg. His family were not brought hither until the 6th of November, 1832. They lived in Oakham up to that time, and he occasionally visited them at his home. As there were not ten years between November 6, 1832, and October 26, 1842, how could he acquire a residence in Winchendon? By intention. He finally, after repeated questionings, ventured to testify that he had formed the intention, in the course of the summer, 1832, to make Winchendon his home. In the words of the "Reports:"

"It was his intention—in June, 1831—to remove to Winchendon, though

he did not know that anything was said to Dunbar about his removal, and nothing was said about the remaining or removal of his family ; that he had some conversation with Dunbar—in March or April, 1832—about removing to Winchendon, and told him that they wanted him (the witness) back to the Barre factory ; that he told Dunbar if he was going to work there (in Winchendon) any longer, he wanted to be getting his family up ; that Dunbar thought he had better stay, and that if he had a mind to stay, and would stay and do as well as he had done, he should have the first chance there was for a tenement, of which there were then none to be had, but they were going to build some ; that he thereupon determined to stay in Winchendon, and did stay ; that at the time of this conversation, he had been and was boarding and continued to board at the factory boarding-house in Winchendon, where he had his washing and most of his mending done, some of the bad mending being done at Oakham, where his family continued to reside ; that his wife and children came to Winchendon to reside on the 6th of November, 1832 ; that the reason why they did not come to Winchendon sooner was because there was no tenement there ready for the witness to remove into ; that after his conversation with Dunbar, he never expected to go back and live in Oakham, but that if Dunbar did not keep him, he should go somewhere else, though he had no thoughts of leaving ; that he was assessed in Winchendon, and paid a tax there in 1832, that during this time he did not think anything about where his home was, though, in answer to any proper question, he should probably have spoken of Oakham as his home ; that he was then at work in Winchendon, liable to be turned away at any time, and having no lease of a house at Oakham, he was liable to be turned out by his landlord at any time ; that the Assessors of Winchendon did not, to his knowledge, come to see him, except once in 1840 or 1841 ; that during the whole time while he worked in Winchendon, before his family came there, he worked by the day, and did not make or ask Dunbar to make any contract, &c.”

The judge, HOPKINSON, was of opinion that the evidence was not sufficient to authorize the jury to find a verdict for the plaintiffs, a verdict was therefore rendered in favor of Winchendon and the plaintiffs alleged exceptions. The case came before the Supreme Court, October term, 1849, when judge FLETCHER gave the decision. Having stated the case, the judge proceeded as follows :

“ After the evidence for the plaintiffs was put in, the judge ruled that it would not warrant the jury in finding a verdict for the plaintiffs. Whereupon a verdict was given for the defendants. To this ruling the plaintiffs except. If therefore there was evidence which would have warranted the jury in find-

ing a verdict for the plaintiffs, the ruling of the court below was erroneous, and a new trial must be granted. There was evidence to show that Sanders was at work in Winchendon, from June, 1831, to October, 1842, and that he had left his former home not intending to return to it again. There was also evidence tending to show that he went to Winchendon, with the intention of fixing his residence and having his settlement there, and to remove his family there as soon as practicable. The intention, which formed a most essential element in the case, was a matter to be inquired of and settled exclusively by the jury. What was the intention of the pauper was a most material fact, and not a question of law, and could only be settled by the jury, and not by the court. The case, therefore, being one which was peculiarly and eminently for the jury, the ruling of the judge was erroneous, and the verdict must be set aside and a new trial granted."

Accordingly a new trial was had, and by that time Sanders, by some means, had become satisfied that he could testify that he had formed a definite intention, sometime in the summer or early autumn of 1832, to make Winchendon his home. This settled the matter, and the jury gave the verdict for the plaintiffs. It was however, and still is the opinion of the agent of the town, that if the case had been given to the first jury, the verdict would have been in favor of Winchendon. At that time the pauper did not seem to know much about his intention. At the latter trial, he testified to a real intention to remove hither, and that testimony governed the jury. The expense was not far from \$350.00. This case certainly illustrates the truth of the motto at the head of the chapter—"the glorious uncertainty of the law."

## CHAPTER XIX.—TEMPERANCE AND MORALS.

“What war so cruel, or what siege so sore,  
As that which strong temptation doth apply  
Against the fort of reason evermore,  
To bring the soul into captivity?”

FAIRY QUEEN.

“Nature, good cateress,  
Means her provision only to the good,  
That live according to her sober laws,  
And holy dictates of pure Temperance.”

COMUS.

### SECTION 1.—CONVIVIAL HABITS.

Winchendon has always enjoyed a fair reputation, in comparison with other towns, in regard to Temperance and Good Morals. At times, intemperance has been quite too prevalent; and other forms of vicious appetite have ruined their votaries and victims. But as a general thing, the tone of moral sentiment has been high, and the people, in successive generations, have been industrious, frugal, law-abiding and virtuous. Their character, in this respect, should find a place in their History. Accordingly, in this short chapter, the design will be to set forth what the town, in its corporate capacity, as well as what societies and individuals have done to promote temperance and good morals.

Nothing of special significance bearing on this subject, is found in our early annals. The fact, however, that the town was a parish, and by annual grants, sustained the preaching of the gospel, and public worship, as well as the catechising of the children in the great truths of the Christian religion, must be taken as evidence that the people were sensible of the necessity of a high state of morals. For true religion is the root of temperance, purity and all other virtues and graces of character. The minister was almost always styled, in town-language, the “teacher of piety, religion and morality;” and his influence was uniformly in favor of the highest style of good morals. The greater

includes the less, and the preaching which inculcates supreme love to God, and unselfish love to man, promotes the highest and purest virtue.

It must be admitted however, that the people, for nearly eighty years after the first permanent settlement, were addicted to the free use of intoxicating drinks, and that not a few of them suffered in health, property and character, in consequence. The elderly people remember many who were injured by their drinking habits; and too many who became such slaves to appetite as to shorten their days and tarnish their memories. The Records of the Church show that some within its sacred fold, from which everything unclean should be excluded, were guilty of intemperance, and others of violating the seventh commandment. As the standard of character is always higher in the Church than in the public generally, the state of morals may be inferred from the above fact. In regard to intemperance, how could it be avoided when liquors were provided for all occasions? They were drank at home, at work, while hunting and fishing, at trainings, at bees, at huskings, at weddings and at funerals. The glass and the pipe came in at all ministerial gatherings. A meeting-house could not be raised or dedicated; a minister could not be settled, without the inevitable rum, brandy and sugar, for the Council, the Choir and the Committee, not to mention visitors from abroad, and the public generally. A barrel, and sometimes more, would be consumed on a single occasion of this kind.

But it must not be forgotten that cases of habitual intemperance were the exceptions, in former times, in the community as a whole, while in the church they were very rare. Moreover, strenuous means were used to reclaim the erring; sometimes by discipline, and sometimes by private exertions. These were often, though not always successful. A story is told of one of the early settlers, whose name need not be given, which exhibits the good intentions of the minister, though he was foiled on the occasion to which it refers. A citizen of good standing, though addicted to the excessive use of spirituous liquors, was visited by the minister, Rev. Mr. Brown, at the suggestion of several neighbors, who hoped that their erring neighbor might be reclaimed. The man himself, anticipating such a call, was prepared. Mr. Brown was seen nearing the house, one bitter cold day in winter, whereupon Mr. — met him at the door, saying: "How do you do? walk in by the fire; you must be very cold; you must take something warm to drink;" and

suiting the action to the word, he brought on his toddy, flip, or whatever drink he had compounded for the occasion. The minister took a draught, according to the usual custom, and was about to begin upon his errand. But the host took the lead in conversation, and passing from one subject to another—health, weather, politics, domestic and religious matters—left no chance for the friendly warning. Mr. Brown finally concluded he must go home, hoping to drop a parting word on the subject which had impelled him to come out on such an inclement day. But here he was foiled again, the host saying: “Really, Mr. Brown, you musn’t go out into the cold without taking something to keep you warm;” and actually induced him to take another drink on retiring. When questioned by his anxious neighbors about the success of his mission, he was obliged to confess that the man’s politeness and volubility had prevented all allusion to the subject of hard-drinking.

#### SECTION 2.—TIPLING AND TAVERN-HAUNTING.

After the Revolution, and down to the close of the first quarter of this century, there was a period of some fifty years, that has no parallel in our history, either before or after, for intemperance. It was the saturnalia of rum. Ministers preached and moralists declaimed against the evil and the sin; friends remonstrated, while wives and children grieved; but still the tide of ruin rolled on, bearing away thousands of debased but willing victims. The laws were also enforced, to a certain extent, and probably some effect was produced by way of preventing the *increase* of intemperance, though not in securing its *suppression*. Among the measures adopted in this place, we find the following in the Records, under date of 1809, December 28. There was an article in the warrant calling a town meeting, “to see if the town will take some method to prevent a number of the inhabitants of said town, from spending their time and property at public houses, by appointing guardians, or some other way, as they shall think proper.” After considering the matter, it was voted:

“1. That it be recommended to the inhabitants of this town, as far as possible, to discountenance every species of prodigality and unnecessary expenditure of time and money, inconsistent with the necessities or conveniences thereof.

2. That this town view with regret, the habits which many of its inhabitants have imbibed, of spending much of their time and money in frequenting

public houses unnecessarily, which tends to destroy the manners, corrupts the morals, and too frequently tends to a life of dissipation, which ends in the ruin of the persons concerned in such practices.

It is therefore voted, that this town pointedly disapproves of this practice as destructive to the community, and detrimental to the peace and good order of society, and so contrary to the good laws of this Commonwealth.

*Voted*, that it be recommended to the innholders and retailers of spirituous liquors, to discountenance, as far as possible, the above practice, as it is pointedly in the face of the law therein made and provided.

*Voted*, that the Selectmen be and they are hereby directed to forward to each tavern keeper, innholder and retailer in this town, a copy of the above resolutions, signed by them, and attested by the town Clerk. And also take such other measures to prevent the continuation of said practices as are consistent with the laws of this Commonwealth."

Nothing farther relating to this subject is found till the year 1817, when, as mentioned in the chapter on the support of the poor, a resolution was passed by the town, in reference to the use of intoxicating drinks as a principal cause of poverty and crime. That action need not be quoted again, only to remind the reader that "the licensed houses and retailers" were constantly violating the law, and that the town felt the need of having them prosecuted by the Selectmen, and if that failed to procure obedience, of withholding their license.

### SECTION 3.—OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

About the same time,—1814— the town in common with the State, was alarmed at the growing laxity in respect of the keeping of the Sabbath as holy unto the Lord. On the 7th of November it was

"*Voted*, that the town most cordially approve the law of this Commonwealth enacted to enforce a due observance of the Lord's day, and also of the last report of the legislature on the subject.

*Voted*, that we, the inhabitants of the town hereby pledge ourselves that we will give all the aid in our power, and make every just and proper effort to secure the execution of the laws providing for the due observance of the Lord's day."

At the same meeting the Tything-men were recommended to enter forthwith on the peculiar duties of their office ; and approbation was expressed in regard to the "late proceedings at Phillipston," where a meeting had been held in favor of the proper observance of the Sabbath.

The connection of this extract from the Records with the preceding, is evident, inasmuch as Sabbath desecration is always attended with intemperance and vice, and the sacred keeping of that day is as uniformly accompanied by all the virtues which adorn the home, bless the country, and beautify the church of God.

It is well known that great efforts have been made during the last forty years, to suppress intemperance by the force of law, as well as by moral influence. This town has uniformly been in favor of all judicious legislation on this subject. A vote passed at the annual meeting, March 6, 1843, may be taken as the habitual sense of the town, in relation to laws regulating the sale of spirituous liquors.

“On motion, voted, that in our opinion, public good does not require that any person or persons be licensed to sell intoxicating drinks in this town the ensuing year, and that we hereby request our Selectmen to withhold their approbation from all persons who may apply for it in order to enable them to procure a license, except for mechanical and medicinal purposes.”

No person has been authorized to sell intoxicating liquors in this town, for many years, except the town agent, and it has not been *openly* sold outside of his store to any great extent. Persons have supplied themselves with the article in various ways, but generally by an underhanded process. By all which it appears that the record of the town, in relation to temperance and good morals, is highly honorable.

#### SECTION 4.—PRIVATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TEMPERANCE.

Not far from forty years ago, some of the leading men of the town were impelled by their sense of duty, to exert their influence as private citizens, against the alarming evils of rum-drinking. Among others, the late Ephraim Murdock, Esq., told his farm hands, as haying time drew nigh, that he should not furnish them with liquor during haying and harvesting. He was willing to add to their wages the cost of the usual allowance of liquors, but he would not furnish the liquor for them, nor employ those who habitually made use of it. They demurred at first, and urged that they could not endure the labor and the heat of summer, without the customary stimulus. He remained firm however, and they yielded the point. The result was that his work was done better than ever before, and the men confessed that they never did their work with so little fatigue and trouble. The experiment was a success.



Capt. Phinehas Whitney and others had a similar experience. In this quiet way a temperance reform was begun which led to very happy results. The practice of *not* furnishing stimulating liquors to workmen, whether on the farm or in shops and factories, became universal, in a few years, and continues to the present time.

Effort in another method was tried at a subsequent period, which was followed with good results. About twenty years ago, two or three gentlemen who were members of the School Committee together, undertook to hold a series of meetings for the benefit of the scholars. Mr. Elisha Murdock and the writer visited every district in the town, and addressed nearly all the children then connected with the schools. Their method was, to visit a school, and after examining into its condition and progress, to invite all the members, with their teacher, to be present in the afternoon of the next Saturday, at a specified hour. They were told the object of the meeting, and that they would be asked to sign the Temperance pledge if their parents were willing. These invitations were always well responded to, and the attendance was large. After speaking to the children upon the evils of self-indulgence, and the importance of being fixed in their childhood in favor of temperance, and after explaining the meaning of the pledge, they were invited to sign their names. They, with few exceptions, took the pledge, and there is reason to believe that the enviable reputation for temperance, good morals and industry which this town enjoys, is due in some measure to these quiet and unpretending efforts. It should be added that the Rev. Andrew Dunn and Mr. Sullivan B. Ball, were present and assisted on several occasions.

#### SECTION 5.—TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

The first associated action on the subject of temperance, in the technical sense of the word, in this section of the Commonwealth, was taken in the study of Rev. EBER L. CLARK. He was then the pastor of the First Congregational Church, and the subject came up before the Worcester North Association of ministers, with which he was connected. According to a published statement of the late DANIEL HENSHAW, Esq., who resided in this town, at the time, they took ground against the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and agreed to exert their influence in inducing others to follow their example. This was before the Temperance Reformation had gained public recognition, and when they

were obliged to encounter, not only the cravings of a perverted appetite, and the pecuniary interest of dealers, but also the prestige of unbroken and universal usage. The temperance movement was thus initiated in all the towns in this vicinity; for the pastors strengthened by each other's co-operation, went home, and began to preach and lecture against intemperance, until their congregations were enlisted in the cause. It was a severe struggle, but the ministers were faithful to their convictions of duty, and they soon found many of the best members of the churches on their side. Sensible men—farmers and others—soon joined them. The ladies gave their influence, in large measure, and the reformation went forward. When the first Temperance Society was formed here is not definitely known, but it was certainly in the early days of this great moral enterprise.

The first pledge, as all know who can remember those days, was to abstain from the use of distilled liquors,—rum, brandy, gin, whiskey, etc.,—but wine, cider, ale and beer were not proscribed. Some good resulted from this effort, but it was soon found that men could make themselves drunk on fermented drinks. Besides, some had no difficulty in strengthening the permitted beverages with liquids of more stimulating quality. And again, it was soon learned that the wine, ale and hard-cider drinker could have no influence over those addicted to the use of more powerful liquors. It was either necessary to abandon the use of "all that could intoxicate," or give up the incipient reformation. This was the second stage of the great movement. A Society was formed here on this basis, including not only the clergymen in town, but many of the most influential citizens. The physicians, among whom Dr. Alvah Godding was conspicuous, lent their powerful aid. The deacons of the churches, so far as now remembered, were all enlisted. Respectable people still clung to their wine; some even to their rum and brandy; but they ceased to provide liquors at funerals, weddings and parties. The bottles were banished from the side-board. The old custom of asking visitors to take a drink, became obsolete. The eleven o'clock dram was dispensed with, and "drinking" was confined, very much to the bar-room and to festive gatherings of men, not of the stricter sort, and when ladies were not present.

It is not necessary to give a history of all, or even of any of the various temperance organizations, which from time to time have existed in the town. It is enough to say that besides the society already re-

ferred to, there was a "Band of Hope," composed of the children, flourishing here in 1842-4; the Washingtonian movement reached here, and was the means of reclaiming quite a number; a society on the basis of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate, except for "medicinal, mechanical and sacramental uses," was in active operation from about 1845 to 1856; and by all these agencies, great good was effected. Besides many sermons and addresses by the clergymen of the town, lectures from some of the most eminent of the leading men engaged in the reform, were heard. Rev. Dr. Porter, then Presiding Elder of the district, Rev. John Pierpont, Dr. Jewett, Mr. Hawkins and others, drew large audiences, and exerted a powerful influence.

During this period, a combination was formed, outside of the temperance organization, to prosecute all violators of the prohibitory law within the limits of the town. It included many members of the temperance society, and quite a number of men who were not in that organization,—all voters—who were convinced that the violation of the law led to unhappy and ruinous results. The combination, united by a written pledge, was so strong, that while it existed, no one had the hardihood to violate the law by the open sale of intoxicating liquors.

Of later date was the organization of the Sons of Temperance, which, though it did not include those friends of temperance who were opposed to all secret societies, exerted a strong and healthful influence in favor of the great reform. In time, this society was succeeded by the Good Templars, in two branches or divisions,—best known to the initiated—one of them made up of children, under the lead of their seniors; and the other of adults. They are based on the pledge of "total abstinence," and the enforcement of the prohibitory law; besides which they are intended to exert a social and kindly influence by means of frequent meetings, music and literary exercises, in favor of the temperance cause.

In all these modes, and by the circulation of temperance periodicals, the cause of self-denial and sound morals has been promoted among us. The church, including the ministry, is the real source and abiding cause of all efficient moral action, but these various organizations are its instruments in effecting its great objects. Wherever the church is inspired by the Spirit of God, the tone of morals will be high, and its power will be felt, by various agencies, through the whole community.

## CHAPTER XX.—THE MILITIA.

When John Adams was in Paris, in the capacity of a minister at the Court of Versailles, he was asked by a Frenchman to tell him what were the causes that made the inhabitants of New England such a peculiar people; so moral, intelligent, religious and free. He replied that there were four causes which united in producing the results which the inquirer so much admired. 1, The Church; 2, the Town Organization with its meetings for business, &c.; 3, the Common School System; and 4, the Militia. This was his reply, substantially, though not in the exact words. These four causes have been at work in this place, and have concurred in making the people homogeneous with all the rest of New England. The church was almost coeval with the first settlement, and preceded the organization of the town; the town was formed as soon as there were people enough to render it advisable; the school has been in operation ever since there were children enough to require a teacher, and the militia, till comparatively recent times, has taught every able-bodied man how to defend his country.

It is difficult to find any definite information respecting the first military organization in Winchendon. Being entirely under the control of the State, there is no reference to it in the Records of the Proprietors or of the town, except an occasional vote of the latter to remit the poll-tax of the soldiers, buy their uniforms, supply them with cartridges, or grant some similar favor, in consideration of their loss of time in the annual, semi-annual, or more frequent musters. At the time of the incorporation of the town, there was not a large number of men to be formed into a military company. Probably there were not more than twenty men in the beginning of 1764, who were liable to do military duty. These however were all accustomed to the use of fire-arms, and could defend themselves and their families from the incursions of wild beasts and the attacks of Indians.

During the next ten years a company was formed, probably, because there was a military organization here at the time of the "Lexington alarm" in 1775. When the news first came, a few men hurried off, under the lead, says tradition, of Moses Hale; but before going far, they learned the result of that movement of the British troops and returned home. In a few days the company, composed of Winchendon, Royalston and Templeton men, under the command of Capt. Abel Wilder, were on their way to Boston. This is known from letters written by Capt. Wilder to his wife, before the close of May. A part of this company was in the battle of Bunker Hill on the 17th of June. From this time, the regular militia system was superseded by other modes of raising volunteers, and procuring men for the regular army. Some of the men who were officers during the war, were Messrs. Wilder, Merriam, Oaks, Poor, Boynton, and others.

Their names, though not always their rank, appear in the chapter on the Revolution.

The militia force was in an organized condition after the establishment of peace, and the acknowledgment of our independence by Great Britain. This was in 1783. In 1786-7, the Governor of Massachusetts sent a requisition for troops to put down the Shays' rebellion. When the requisition reached here, the company was wanted, and met on the Common, when there was a call for volunteers. The names of the commissioned officers have not been learned by the author with certainty, but as Paul Boynton, and Daniel Hubbard were commissioned captains in 1788, it is probable they were either first lieutenants or ensigns, in the two or three preceding years. Starting from this point, the names of the officers and their rank, with the date of their commission, will be given in the following table. The Winchendon companies belonged to the Fifth Regiment, Second Brigade, Seventh Division, until 1820, after which they belonged to the Sixth Division; the number of the Regiment and Brigade remaining unchanged.

| YEAR. | NAME.                | RANK.       |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1788. | Paul Boynton,        | Captain.    |
| 1788. | Daniel Hubbard,      | Captain.    |
|       | " Jacob B. Woodbury, | Lieutenant. |
| 1789. | Adonijah Bixby,      | Ensign.     |
| 1793. | Paul Boynton,        | Major.      |
| 1793. | David Rice,          | Captain.    |

| YEAR. | NAME.               | RANK.        |
|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1793. | Levi Moor,          | Captain.     |
| "     | Adonijah Bixby,     | Lieutenant.  |
| 1793. | Isaac Noyes,        | Ensign.      |
| 1794. | Thomas Graton,      | Ensign.      |
| 1794. | Isaac Noyes,        | Lieutenant.  |
| 1794. | Samuel P. Goodrich, | Ensign.      |
| 1795. | Levi Heywood,       | "            |
| "     | Thomas Graton,      | Lieutenant.  |
| 1797. | Benjamin Wilder,    | "            |
| "     | Cyrus Brown,        | Ensign.      |
| 1799. | Paul Boynton,       | Lt. Colonel. |
| "     | Levi Moor,          | Major.       |
| "     | Nathaniel Holman,   | Qr. Master.  |
| "     | Levi Heywood,       | Lieutenant.  |
| "     | Benjamin Adams,     | "            |
| "     | Daniel Boynton,     | Ensign.      |

About this time some of the soldiers of Winchendon belonged to the Cavalry, First Regiment Horse, Second Division.

|       |   |                |
|-------|---|----------------|
| 1791. | Joseph Brown,   | 2d Lieutenant. |
|       | Battalion of Cavalry, in Second Brigade,<br>Seventh Division. |                |
| 1790. | Paul Raymond,   | Lieutenant.    |
| 1791. | Joseph Brown,   | 2d Lieutenant. |
| 1802. | Phineas Whitney,  | Lieutenant.    |
| 1806. | "   | Captain.       |

It was at this last date that the affair of the Chesapeake occurred, when the soldiers of the country were called upon to be in readiness for public service. The Cavalry Co., made up of soldiers from this and neighboring towns, paraded at New Boston, and under the appeal of Capt. Whitney to volunteer with him, they all pledged themselves to march when summoned. They were not needed, but this spirit was none the less conspicuous. We return to the Infantry.

|       |                    |                 |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1800. | Jacob B. Woodbury, | Lt. Col. Com'g. |
| 1800. | Abel Jones,        | Ensign.         |
| 1801. | Benjamin Hubbard,  | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Abiel Alger,       | Ensign.         |
| 1802. | Abel Jones,        | Lieutenant.     |
| 1802. | Abiel Alger,       | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Lemuel Heywood,    | Ensign.         |
| "     | Samuel Leach,      | "               |
| 1803. | Nathaniel Holman,  | Adjutant.       |
| "     | William Bickford,  | Qr. Master.     |

| YEAR.  | NAME.                  | RANK.           |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1804.  | Benjamin Adams,        | Major.          |
| "      | Lemuel Heywood,        | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Timothy Hancock,       | Ensign.         |
| "      | David Beaman,          | "               |
| 1805.* | Lemuel Heywood,*       | Captain.        |
| "      | David Beaman,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Luke Prentice,         | Ensign.         |
| "      | Timothy Hancock,†      | Captain.        |
| "      | Israel Whitcomb,       | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | "                      | Ensign.         |
| "      | Joshua Stoddard,       | Ensign.         |
| 1806.  | Lemuel Heywood,*       | Captain.        |
| "      | David Beaman,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Luke Prentice,         | Ensign.         |
| 1807.  | Benjamin Adams,        | Lt. Colonel.    |
| "      | "                      | Lt. Col. Com'g. |
| "      | David Beaman,*         | Captain.        |
| "      | Charles Chase,         | Ensign.         |
| 1808.  | Luke Prentice,*        | Captain.        |
| "      | Charles Chase,         | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Joseph Robbins,        | Ensign.         |
| 1809.  | Israel Whitcomb,†      | Captain.        |
| "      | Joshua Stoddard,       | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Samuel Noyes,          | Ensign.         |
| 1810.  | Joshua Stoddard,†      | Captain.        |
| "      | Samuel Noyes,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Alpheus Gay,           | Ensign.         |
| 1811.  | Charles Chase,*        | Captain.        |
| "      | Abijah Peirce,†        | "               |
| "      | Joseph Robbins,*       | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | John Raymond,†         | "               |
| "      | James Stimson,*        | Ensign.         |
| 1812.  | Eliel Sherwin,†        | "               |
| 1813.  | Joseph Robbins,*       | Captain.        |
| "      | James Stimson,         | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | John Forristall,       | Ensign.         |
| 1814.  | John Forristall,*      | Captain.        |
| "      | Luke Heywood,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "      | Hananiah Whitney,      | Ensign.         |
| 1816.  | Horatio Gates Newcomb. | Adjutant.       |
| "      | Hananiah Whitney, Jr., | Lieutenant.     |

\* About this date, two Companies were formed, one belonging to the southern, and the other to the northern half of the town. They sometimes met on the Common and engaged in exciting Sham-fights. North Company.

† South Company.

| YEAR. | NAME.                   | RANK.           |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1816. | Simeon Stearns,         | Ensign.         |
| 1817. | John Raymond,†          | Captain.        |
| "     | Luke Wilder,            | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | "                       | Ensign.         |
| "     | Mark Whitcomb,          | "               |
| 1817. | William H. Cutler,      | Surgeon's Mate. |
| 1818. | "                       | Surgeon.        |
| "     | Luke Wilder,†           | Captain,        |
| "     | Mark Whitcomb,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Levi Greenwood,         | Ensign.         |
| "     | Hananiah Whitney, Jr.,* | Captain.        |
| "     | Simeon Stearns,         | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Luke Parks,             | Ensign.         |

The Regiment and Brigade were now put into the Sixth Division.

|       |                        |                 |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1820. | Horatio G. Newcomb,    | Major.          |
| "     | Simeon Stearns,*       | Captain.        |
| "     | Luke Parks,            | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | James Fry,*            | Ensign.         |
| "     | Thomas Bennet, Jr.,    | "               |
| 1821. | Luke Parks,*           | Captain.        |
| "     | Thomas Bennet,         | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | James Fry,             | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Ephraim Murdock, Jr.,  | Ensign.         |
| 1822. | Eber L. Clark,         | Chaplain.       |
| 1822. | Mark Whitcomb,†        | Captain.        |
| "     | Ephraim Murdock, Jr.,  | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Stillman Hale,         | Ensign.         |
| "     | Levi Greenwood,†       | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | Willard Clark,         | Ensign.         |
| 1823. | James M. Fuller,       | Surgeon's Mate. |
| 1824. | Ephraim Murdock, Jr.,* | Captain.        |
| "     | Stillman Hale,         | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | John H. Wheelock,      | Ensign.         |
| "     | Levi Greenwood,†       | Captain.        |
| "     | Oliver Adams,          | Lieutenant.     |
| "     | B. H. Hancock,         | Ensign.         |
| "     | James M. Fuller,       | Surgeon.        |
| "     | Solomon Crocker,       | Paymaster.      |
| 1825. | Stillman Hale,         | Captain.        |
| "     | Gilman Day,            | Ensign.         |

One Company was disbanded in 1826, after which time, most of the officers seem to have been located in the northern section of the town.

\* North. † South.



| YEAR. | NAME.                          | RANK.       |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1826. | Stillman Hale,                 | Captain.    |
| "     | Benjamin H. Hancock,           | Lieutenant. |
| "     | John H. Wheelock,              | "           |
| "     | John Cutter,                   | Ensign.     |
| "     | William Murdock,               | "           |
| 1827. | Oliver Adams,                  | Captain.    |
| 1828. | William Murdock,               | Lieutenant. |
| "     | "                              | Captain.    |
| "     | John Cutter, (Light Infantry)  | "           |
| "     | Edward Murdock,                | "           |
| "     | Levi Stearns,                  | Lieutenant. |
| "     | Hiram Adams,                   | Ensign.     |
| "     | Orvil Gilmore,                 | "           |
| 1829. | William Murdock,               | Captain.    |
| "     | Charles W. Bigelow,            | Lieutenant. |
| 1830. | "                              | Captain.    |
| "     | Charles Dickerson,             | Lieutenant. |
| "     | "                              | Ensign.     |
| 1830. | Harvey Wyman,                  | Ensign.     |
| "     | William Murdock,               | Major.      |
| 1832. | "                              | Colonel.    |
| "     | Levi Stearns, (Light Infantry) | Captain.    |
| "     | William Brooks,                | Lieutenant. |
| "     | H. Wyman,                      | "           |
| "     | James Murdock, Jr.,            | Ensign.     |
| "     | Daniel Rolf, 3d,               | "           |
| 1833. | Marvin T. Nash,                | Lieutenant. |
| 1834. | William Brooks,                | Captain.    |
| "     | James Murdock,                 | Lieutenant. |

At this date all signs of the Militia for about ten or twelve years disappear. In 1845 a Company was formed, which was connected with the Ninth Regiment of Light Infantry.

|       |                     |                 |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1845. | Oliver P. Prescott, | Captain.        |
| "     | Sidney Fairbanks,   | 1st Lieutenant. |
| "     | Samuel Page,        | 2d Lieutenant.  |
| 1845. | David Carter,       | 3d Lieutenant.  |
| "     | M. B. Felton,       | 4th Lieutenant. |
| 1847. | Sidney Fairbanks,   | Captain.        |
| "     | Joseph Cobb,        | Lt. Colonel.    |
| 1852. | Sidney Fairbanks,   | Major.          |

In 1852 the Company was disbanded, since which there has been no Company of Volunteers in the town.

\* North. † South.

Our fathers through all the period of colonial and provincial history, maintained a military organization, and were fired by the military spirit. None but careful students of the ante-revolutionary times of the Commonwealth, have any adequate idea of the frequency and severity of the wars with the Indians and the French, which the struggling colonists were compelled to wage, in order to preserve their very existence. Though "trusting in God," they were under the necessity of "keeping their powder dry." The war of the revolution deepened their conviction that a well-organized militia was essential to the welfare of a free State. As a natural consequence, the annual trainings in the spring and the autumn, were kept up with great spirit during nearly a generation and a half.

Training was a great event for the commissioned officers and the orderly sergeants in those old days. The captain was allowed to feel rather large on those occasions. The following anecdote, though belonging to a neighboring State, is illustrative. As the captain of the Governor's Foot Guards, on the morning of Election-day, was moving along the street in New Haven, with great majesty, the boys were struck with his appearance, and whispered to each other: "There goes the Governor." On hearing the words, he turned, and with imposing suavity, replied: "Not yet my little lads." Making suitable deductions, this spirit of elation is rather becoming in a military officer.

The boys of the present day can have no idea of an old-fashioned training. The uniforms notable for anything but uniformity; the guns of all sorts and sizes; the drill; the marches, including "whipping the snake; the sham-fight; the firing, when no two made a noise at the same time; the "shouting of the captain," and the wheeling of the "awkward squad;" and all accompanied by the "ear-piercing fife and the spirit-stirring drum," combined to make a sight worth seeing. The side-shows, the hucksters with pies, hard-boiled eggs and cards of gingerbread, and the motley crowd running before, beside or behind the soldiery, added to the comic features of the scene. But though the "training" had so much of the droll and the ridiculous for its accompaniments, if an enemy had made an attack on those soldiers, he would have found them with courage true as steel, and with a skill in hitting the mark which would prove dangerous to their foes. Then it should be said that the scenes above depicted, characterized that period in our history when the militia had run down, and before the volunteer compa-

nies had begun to awaken a true military spirit again. Forty years ago one company in this town was disbanded. In eight years more, the other disappeared from view. Previous to the first date, trainings were conducted with great spirit. A sham-fight was a "mimic war," and the soldiers took a just pride in their military appearance. Then came the period of indifference and decline. When the volunteer system was in vogue, a spirited company was formed in this place—1845—and made a creditable show when on parade; but in about seven years, it was found too burdensome to keep up the proper drill, as well as too expensive to procure handsome equipments, and give the required time to company exercises and camp-duties. The company was disbanded in 1852, since when there has been no military organization in the town. But when the fell and wicked rebellion broke out in the spring of 1861, it was instantly evident that the stuff which soldiers are made of, was here in large measure. And the success of our arms in that great struggle raises the question again, whether it is better for a nation to keep up a costly preparation for war, or on the other hand, by economy of its means, increase its population and resources so as to be more able to cope with its enemies.

## CHAPTER XXI.—CEMETERIES.

Beneath those whispering *pin*es, that *oak tree's* shade,  
 Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,  
 Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
 The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,  
 The swallow twittering from the straw-built shed,  
 The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,  
 No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

GRAY'S ELEGY.

In many towns there are burying-yards in every neighborhood, besides private burial places for families. Here, the better way of bringing the remains of all the departed to the centre, was followed for many years, though the people were scattered over the whole township. At length the yard in the south-west part of the town was set apart for the dead. About a hundred years after the settlement of the town, the Cemetery was put in order and consecrated with appropriate services. More recently the Catholic lot was laid out and fenced. These will be described in their order.

## 1.—THE OLD CENTRAL BURYING YARD.

“The life of man  
 Is summed in birthdays and in sepulchres,  
 But the eternal God had no beginning.”

The Proprietors of Ipswich Canada, on the 27th of October, 1737, voted to reserve five acres out of the lot No. 1, in the south division, “for building a meeting-house on, a burying-place and training-field.” The settlers, when they came to look over the locality, decided that a more convenient and better place could be found for the meeting-house and the training-field, and therefore selected the present Common in the centre of the town. In this connection it may be said, that strenuous exertions were made by a few of the inhabitants to have the meeting-house at the centre of the line east and west from Ashburnham to Roy-

alston, which would be about a hundred rods west of the Common, and about an equal distance east of the house of Enoch Wyman. A road was petitioned for by Abner Curtice, to go from the Village by the above spot, and on towards Templeton. Such a route would avoid the ascent to the Common, as the hill is lower two or three furlongs west, and would pass to the west of the hill north of Luke Wilder's, and the other hill beyond the Bell school-house. But though the road was accepted, once if not twice, by the town, it was never opened. Nor can we doubt the good judgment which fixed upon the old Common as the centre for the meeting-house and the training-field. But in making this decision, the settlers concluded to have the burying-yard at the original location.

It is probable that the original design was to have the meeting-house somewhere south of the old hearse-house, and the burying-yard behind it, according to ancient custom. Then there would be room for the training-field at the north end of the lot, where most of the graves are now. The first grave was back of the supposed spot selected for the meeting-house, and where the first fence was erected. Afterwards the south fence of the burying-yard was run from a point just south of the hearse-house, eastward to the east line of the lot, thus leaving the first grave outside of the yard. By the enlargement of the yard a few years since, and the removal of the wall, at the same time, this first grave is brought again into the sacred enclosure.

There is something touching associated with this first grave. It was made, according to Mr. Hyde, "about 1752;" in the words of Dr. Whiton, "about this time—1755—the precise year not known." Probably the latter date is the nearest to correctness. Here was laid the body of Joshua Priest, the first adult white, and it is believed the first white person, that was buried in the town. He was a blacksmith, and began the Eli Smith, or Thomas farm, since known as the Scribner place, at the summit of the road north of the Luke Wilder place. He was frozen to death on or near the Prentice hill, not far from Merritt Hale's, in a snow storm. The Prentice hill rises east from Waterville, south of the river. It is supposed that while going home, drawing a hand-sled loaded with hay, he fell into some pool or brook, and wet his clothes. Says Dr. Whiton: "I have often seen his lonely grave, but it was long since obliterated by the plow."

Death follows us wherever we go, and thankful should we be, that

by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ, the "last enemy" can be transformed into a friend. But notwithstanding the divine goodness in this regard, we can never cease to mourn the final departure of those dear to our hearts. The spot where their remains find a last resting-place will ever have a mournful interest. As we walk amid the mounds, perhaps carelessly, we are near the dust over which bereaved parents and friends have often wept, the dust of those whose death brought the prematurely gray hair of their parents to the grave. There is not space, nor would it be judicious, to refer to one in a hundred of those who lie buried in the old grave-yard; but a brief allusion may be made to one cluster of graves where many hopes lie buried. In 1762, December 15, the Rev. Daniel Stimpson was ordained pastor of the Church. He married his cousin Beulah. In less than six years, his wife and two little children were laid in the earth; and while his eyes were still wet with tears, he was summoned to join them. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it." Their bodies lie near each other, till the resurrection; their spirits, we trust, were re-united in the land of immortal life. Not a stone marks their graves, and but a few know in what part of the yard they may be found. It is to be hoped that either Mr. Stimpson's descendants, or the citizens of the town, will place some memorial where he who was the first minister of the town as well as the church, reposes till the heavens be no more. He was buried at the right of the grave of his son Luther.

It would seem, from the Records, that the yard was not enclosed for many years after its first occupancy. The town voted, March 7, 1768, that "the burying-yard be cleared this year." On the 2d of May, 1797, about forty-two years after the interment of Mr. Priest, the town chose a committee—Deacons Prentice and Hale, and Desire Tolman, afterwards Deacon—"to view the burying-ground, with a view to fencing the same." On the 4th of the following September, a committee of three was chosen to "take security of Samuel Crosby, Esq., and Dr. Israel Whiton, for a passage into the burying-yard, and of Mr. Jonas Bruce, for a strip of land adjoining the east side of said yard." Whether the yard was fenced in 1797, is uncertain; but if so, the fence was a frail one; for in 1803, May 2d, it was again voted "to fence the burying-ground." Still the work was delayed, as is indicated by the two following votes; one on the 21st of November, and the other on the 2d of December, 1803. By the first, the town declined to "buy

an addition of an acre on the west side of the burying-yard," of Dr. Whiton. By the other, the town decided to "purchase an acre of land west of the burying-ground, till it comes to the road." A committee was chosen to buy the land of Dr. Whiton, with power to fence the yard. It is supposed that the yard was enlarged and fenced at this time.

Since the burial of Mr. Stimpson, many others, aged and young, had been laid around their minister. Dea. Richard Day was killed by an accident in 1774, and was buried, about three-quarters of the distance from the hearse-house to the east wall. No stone marks the spot. Three years before, two lads, William Oaks and Robert Moffatt, aged 17 and 16 years, were drowned. In those early days, when the people were few, we may not doubt, there was a deep sense of sadness and sympathy throughout the town. They were buried side by side near the northeast corner of the yard, close by the grave of Lt. Levi Heywood.

A few graves, unmarked by stones, but identified by Mr. Luke Rice, may be noted. Stephen Bixby, who was killed by Daniel Robbins, was buried near Levi Bixby. The boy Moor, who hung himself, was laid just back of the grave of Benjamin Hubbard. Jonas Bradish was buried near the east end.

A single stone marks the grave of four children of David Stoddard. They all died in 1786. Another stone commemorates three children of Rev. Joseph Brown. One died in 1771, the other two in 1775.

The yard is not rich in epitaphs. The following, on the gravestone of Joel Rugg, aged 23, who died, August 27, 1775, is not common.

"My youthful days cut short by thee,  
Are lengthened to eternity;  
Yet all that in Jehovah die,  
Shall live and sing eternally."

It would almost seem as if a fatality attended the Stimpsons. In July, 1781, a child of Samuel Stimpson was drowned in a well nearly opposite the old Nichols tavern; and ten years later, Mr. Jonathan Stimpson was killed by a falling tree. In the half-century from 1752 to 1803, a generation and a half had fallen asleep, and were quietly laid away in what our Saxon forefathers beautifully called "God's acre." All ages and classes were there :—

"The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes  
In the full strength of years, matron and maid,  
And the sweet babe, and the gray-headed man."

Before the next attempt to improve the yard, in the year 1822, the Rev. Mr. Pillsbury, the third minister, had been buried here with reverent hands. Col. Paul Raymond, the elder Prentice, Mr. William Whitney, and hundreds of others, including Browns, Boyntons, Rices, McElwains, Hales, Bixbys, Tuckers, Woodburys, Greenwoods, Flints, Perleys, Crosbys, Polands, Hydes, Wilders ; in a word, representatives of all the early families, were laid in the narrow house.

Nothing farther seems to have been done to the yard, except privately, for more than forty years. In 1847, April 5, the Report of the Selectmen on the matter of a Hearse House was heard by the town, when on motion of Mr. Harry Pitkin, it was voted that the Selectmen be "authorized to build a Hearse House, and repair the fences ; also to purchase additional lands for the burying-grounds." Two years later, June 11, 1849, a committee of three—Dea. Paul Raymond, Mr. John Woodbury, and Dea. John Cutter— was chosen "to lot, and stake off, and number, the several lots in the centre burying-ground." From this it would seem that the former vote respecting the purchase of additional land, had been carried out by the Selectmen. The following shows that they had done something in the way of fencing. In 1851, March 3, for making "wall round burying-ground, \$55.17."

Within a few years last past, this ancient yard has been much improved. The parts most recently occupied, have been laid out with regularity, handsome monuments have been set up,—in some cases, taking the place of more rustic specimens of the lapidary's art ;—iron fences have been erected ; the front wall has been relaid, and shade trees have been planted. The children have been honoring their fathers and mothers. Since the opening of the Riverside Cemetery, the remains of quite a number have been transferred to it from the ancient yard.

In 1860, May 28, it was voted to "build a substantial stone wall on the west line of the Cemetery, from the hearse house north." The Cemetery Commissioners were to see the work done. This vote refers to the old yard. On the 7th of March, 1864, the Commissioners were instructed "to make such improvement in the Old Burying Ground on the Hill as they may think proper." And here, to the lasting honor of Dr. Joshua Tucker, the distinguished dentist of Boston, it should be recorded, that the yard has recently been decorated with numerous shade trees, at his expense.



## THE NEW BOSTON BURYING YARD.

"This sunny plain, beneath that pine-clad slope,  
Holds fast the dreamless sleepers. The iron-horse  
With his unearthly shriek disturbs them not:—  
They wait the archangel's trump."

ANON.

The burying-yard in the southwesterly part of the town, was set apart in some year between 1770 and 1780. It was given by Capt. Thomas Sawyer, and comprised, at first, but half an acre.

A little child was the first occupant of this yard. This was a child of Aaron Ellis, which was scalded to death. Mr. Ellis lived near where C. C. Alger's house now stands. The second person buried here was the grandmother of the same Mr. Ellis. Next came the wife of Robert Bradish; Lydia Morton, and a pair of twins. From this time, this little enclosure has been gathering its inhabitants from all the houses in that section of the town, till now it probably contains more than all who are living on the same territory. Nothing farther is found in the Records respecting the yard before the year 1822, when on the 6th of May, an article was acted upon, "about fencing the burying-yard in the southwest part of the town." Lieut. Paul Raymond, Capt. Israel Whitcomb and Capt. Joshua Stoddard, were chosen a committee "to inquire into the situation of the burying-ground, and see if any addition of land can be purchased to enlarge the same, and also to see something about fencing it, and report." The Report was made at the next annual meeting, March 3, 1823, and the same committee was directed to "superintend the building of the fence around the burying-yard." The building of it was "struck off" to Jonathan Wyman, at \$31.50.

In 1839 the Selectmen were chosen a committee "to fence the burying-ground near Charles Borman's." This Borman was the son of John G. Martin Burneyman. By degrees the second syllable of his name was dropped, the letter u in the first was changed to o, and his name became Borman. He was a Hessian.

The vote in 1847, (already cited) relative to purchasing additional land for the burying-grounds, applied to this yard as well as that at the Centre. The next year \$5.25 were laid out in repairing the fence of this yard. In 1850, June 11, the following were chosen a committee, —viz: George Alger, C. C. Alger, and Joel Sibley—"to lot and stake off, and number the several lots in the New Boston burying-ground."

In 1862, at the annual meeting, C. C. Alger, Luke Rice, Orrin Norcross and Joel Sibley, were chosen a committee "to put the New Boston burying-yard in order."

This yard has a very pleasant location, and by the cultivation of flowers and shrubbery, it may become a beautiful cemetery.

#### THE RIVERSIDE CEMETERY.

"Over the river they beckon to me,  
Loved ones who've crossed to the further side,  
The gleam of their snowy robes I see,  
But their voices are lost in the dashing tide."

MISS PRIEST.

About twenty years since there began to be a want of additional accommodation for the burial of the dead. At the same time, there was a strong desire on the part of many, that a new lot should be obtained and laid out after the manner of a modern Cemetery. This growing feeling took shape, by degrees, and finally resulted in procuring and putting in order one of the most beautiful rural cemeteries in the Commonwealth. A somewhat full account of the steps taken in fulfillment of this sacred enterprise, deserves a place in this history. In giving it the Records will be strictly followed.

On the 28th of November, 1848, the Selectmen—Messrs. Elisha Beaman, Harvey Wyman and Levi Raymond—were authorized to "purchase a piece of land for a burying-ground in such place as they may think will best accommodate the inhabitants of said town." Later in the day, one from each district was chosen "to purchase land for burying-grounds." Thus authorized, the Selectmen, in company with several gentlemen invited by them, examined various lots in the north part of the town, for the purpose of finding the one most suitable. Among others, they looked at the sightly spot now occupied by Washington Whitney; the gentle slope of William Brown, southeast of the brick-yard; the beautiful hill-side extending from Henry Wyman's towards the village, called the Prentiss lot; the pleasant grounds around the residence of James Whitman, called the Tucker lot; and also the Whitcomb lot, so called, conveniently situated at the north end of the central burying-yard. They preferred above all locations, the Adams lot, where the two branches of Miller's river unite and form Whitney's pond. Accordingly they purchased several acres of Capt. Oliver Adams. This

is now the Catholic Cemetery. On the 2d of October, 1849, a committee was chosen to "lot out and fence the new Cemetery." Another committee was chosen, on the 10th of December, to "purchase an addition to the lot obtained of Oliver Adams;" they were also authorized to purchase the Parks lot. The committee on lotting and fencing the Adams lot, laid out the ground in squares, with convenient paths, and drove the stakes. Their bill, including their own services, "for work on burying-ground," at the next March meeting, was \$406.04. The Parks lot was not secured.

On the 4th of May, 1850, the burying-ground committee were "instructed to examine more lots;" and on the 23d, were directed to "purchase the Parks lot." On the 27th, a town meeting was held which was adjourned to the Adams lot; met there, and examined that and the Parks lot. On the 11th of June, the vote in favor of buying the Parks lot was reconsidered. March 18, 1851, the Selectmen—Moses Hancock, Nelson D. White and Oliver Adams—were directed to "make a plan of the lots and number them;" persons were to select their lots, and the sexton to record them; also, name and date of burials. A place was to be set apart for strangers. In 1852, March 1, the bill for "the burying-ground road and for stone posts," was \$115.08.

No progress was made during the next four or five years. At length, in 1856, September 6, a committee previously appointed, of which Dea. E. Butler was chairman, reported the Tucker lot as available. A vote was taken to see which lot suited the largest number. The result follows: Parks lot, 14; Adams lot, 20; Tucker lot, 5; Prentiss lot, 4. On the 13th of the same month, a new vote was taken, with this result: Adams, 7; Prentiss, 2; Tucker, 4; Parks, 5; Whitcomb, 14. By this time a number of the citizens had become settled in their minds, that the Parks lot—first suggested by Dea. Reuben Hyde—was superior to any other in the whole town for a Cemetery, and they were resolved to secure it by persevering effort. A new committee was chosen with Capt. E. Murdock, Jr., as chairman, who reported to the town on the 6th of October, 1857, in favor of the Parks lot; whereupon it was voted "to purchase said lot of twenty-five acres." At the same time a committee was chosen—Messrs. E. Murdock, Jr., Gilman B. Parker, John Cutter, Orlando Mason, John H. Fairbanks, Bethuel Ellis and Maynard Partridge, to draw up a "plan for preparing the lot for a Cemetery, and the manner of fencing, and estimate the expense

of the same, and present it to the town." The committee reported, on the 3d of November, in favor of fencing and some improvements; and also, "that a portion should be put into lots and sold; and that as long as any one will pay a dollar for choice, they shall be sold for choice, and all money raised shall be used in ornamenting the ground." It was also voted "that a Board of Commissioners should be chosen annually to execute and carry out the instructions of the town given from time to time." Chose Ephraim Murdock, Jr., Seth Tucker, Gilman B. Parker, Bethuel Ellis and John Henry Fairbanks, the first Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners invited the citizens to appear on the ground at an appointed day, with hatchets and axes, hoes, shovels and rakes, and assist in clearing the ground, and trimming the trees. Many responded to the call, and cheerfully engaged in the work, in the autumn of this year; and thus the field was prepared for the scientific surveyor.

At the next annual meeting, March 1, 1858, it was reported that \$480.84 had been laid out for Cemetery land, and \$135.32 for expenses incurred by the Commissioners. They were empowered to employ Mr. Amasa Ferrier, of Stoneham, a gentleman of experience and taste, to mark out the avenues and paths, and lay out the lot into squares, circles, ellipses or triangles, according to the nature of the ground. They were also instructed to fence and prepare the Cemetery ground agreeable to the recommendations of the former Board. A new Board was chosen as follows: E. Murdock, Jr., G. B. Parker, N. D. White, E. S. Merrill and J. H. Fairbanks. These have been annually re-elected until 1867, when the vacancy caused by the decease of Dea. Parker was filled by the election of Charles J. Rice, Esq.

#### THE CONSECRATION SERVICES.

The lot was now well prepared for its destined uses. Nature had graced it with varied amenity and loveliness. Mr. Ferrier, with the skill of a landscape gardener, ran all his lines so as to heighten the natural beauty of the scene. The plain, slightly variegated, and covered with sighing pine trees and other natives of the forest, the curving hill-side sloping to the water's edge; the river,—now babbling over the rocks, and then losing itself in the pond—flashing in the sunshine or broken into bubbles by the falling rain-drops; the charming curve, covered

with the mayflower,—which in this town, is noted for its peculiar beauty and fragrance—where the tomb is placed ; with the fine prospects in different directions, all combine to render this spot one of the most delightful to be found in a summer's travel. It seems as if the Creator had made it for a sweet and quiet resting-place for the departed.

On the 14th of June, 1858, there was a meeting in the town hall to make arrangements for the consecration of the Cemetery by appropriate services. The meeting adjourned to the Cemetery lot, and chose a committee whose duty it was “to name the Cemetery and superintend the consecration of the same.” The committee were Elisha Murdock, George Brown, Sidney Fairbanks, William L. Woodcock, William Brown, 2d, Orlando Mason, Edwin Parks, William W. Godding, Jacob B. Harris and Charles J. Rice. The Commissioners were instructed to build a Receiving Tomb, to be used as a temporary place of interment ; to draw up Regulations and submit them to the town ; to proceed to the sale of lots immediately after the consecration services ; and to obtain seven hundred lithographic plans of the Cemetery. The committee reported the following as suitable names for the Cemetery : Riverside ; Pine Grove ; Spring Grove ; and Evergreen. The first had a majority of voices.

The first day of July was devoted to the consecration services by the town, a large number of the people—men, women and children—being present. But before the appointed time, the angel Death had anticipated the citizens, and consecrated the field by a solemn and impressive event. Mrs. Jane Fifield Mason, wife of Mr. Orlando Mason, was buried here by special permission, a day or two before the Cemetery was formally set apart to be the habitation of the dead. With feelings chastened by this occurrence, the town met on the first day of July, at 1 P. M., and after the adoption of several Rules and Regulations, adjourned the meeting until after the Ceremonies of the Consecration. These having been performed, the town meeting was called to order, and it was voted “that the fence be painted and sanded.”

The Exercises at the Consecration were as follows, under the direction of Capt. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., the Marshal of the day. 1, Singing ; 2, Introductory Prayer and Reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. Benjamin F. Clarke, Pastor of the First Congregational Church ; 3, Singing ; 4, Address by Rev. Abijah P. Marvin, Pastor of the North

Congregational Church; 5, Consecrating Prayer, by Rev. William J. Hambleton; 6, Singing. The Music was furnished by a union of choirs, under the lead of Messrs. Edwin S. Merrill, and William L. Woodcock.

The passages of Scripture read were very appropriate. Besides others, the following seemed peculiarly fitting to the occasion, indicating as they do, that a rural burial-place is as old as the days of Abraham.

“And the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field and the cave which was therein, and *all the trees that were in the field*, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city. And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre.”

Whatever improvements,—and they are many—have been made by the Commissioners, or by private persons, since the time of the consecration, may be learned from the annual Report of the Board, or by visiting the Cemetery.

#### THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

“Upon the cross were fixed our closing eyes;  
The cross here marks our graves; and when we rise,  
Our trust will be the Crucified.”

SONG OF HOPE.

The inhabitants of Winchendon, previous to 1847, when the railroad reached the place, were, with the exception of a few Canadian French, native Americans. At that time emigrants from Ireland began to take up their abode here. For several years however, they were accustomed to take the remains of their relatives to Fitchburg for burial. To obviate the great expense and loss of time which this course laid upon them, they took measures to obtain a suitable burial-place within the limits of the town. The Adams lot, though not used by the town for the purpose for which it was purchased, had not been sold. This lot being very eligible, was desired by the Catholics for a Cemetery. The matter came before the town on the 7th of March, 1864, when it was voted to “give the Adams lot to the Catholics for a Cemetery, provided that all money received for the sale of lots, shall be expended on the land in fitting it up for a burial-ground.”

It was found however that the condition was unacceptable, as the bishop, who holds all grounds devoted to burial-purposes in trust, would not accept the offer with restrictions in regard to the use of money derived from the sale of lots, beyond fencing the field. Whereupon the town passed the following vote: "that the town Treasurer make a gratuitous transfer of the land deeded to the town by Oliver Adams, to T. H. Bowman, or bishop Fitzpatrick, of Boston, in trust, on condition that it be used for burial purposes, and no others. The grantees to make and maintain all fences."

## CHAPTER XXII.—THE CHURCHES.

“Oh, where are kings and empires now  
Of old that went and came?  
But, Lord, thy church is praying yet,  
A thousand years the same.

We mark her goodly battlements,  
And her foundations strong;  
We hear within the solemn voice  
Of her unending song.

For not like kingdoms of the world  
Thy holy church, O God!  
Though earthquake shocks are threatening her,  
And tempests are abroad.

Unshaken as eternal hills,  
Immovable she stands,  
A mountain that shall fill the earth,  
A house not made with hands.”

BR. COXE.

## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

As the town was a parish for about sixty years after its incorporation, it was necessary to give its history in that capacity. But the history of the various churches and religious organizations is quite distinct, and demands a separate place in this volume.

As stated already on another page, the Records of the First Congregational Church, during the first thirty-eight years of its existence,—from 1762 to 1800—are lost. When the Rev. Joseph Brown, the second minister, was dismissed, in December, 1799, he retained in his own possession whatever papers and records relating to the history of the Church, had been accumulating from the beginning, in 1762. All efforts to induce him to surrender these documents were unavailing, and his family, when applied to in after years, could find no trace of them. Besides a few facts and dates, therefore, there are no authentic materials for the history of the Church previous to the beginning of this cen-



ture, except what are found in the town Records. As the town was a parish down to the year 1825, its Records throw some light on the history of the Church. But these belong to the history of the town in its parochial capacity, and have, for the most part, been used in that connection.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

In the "Book of Records belonging to the Church of Christ in Winchendon, bought in February, A. D. 1802," and containing the Records down to the close of the ministry of the Rev. Eber L. Clark, in the year 1835, there is, on the second page, in the handwriting of the Rev. Levi Pillsbury, the following entry :

"The Church of Christ in Winchendon was first gathered in the year of our Lord 1762, on the 15th of December, at which time the Rev. Daniel Stimpson, the first minister, was ordained. The Rev. Mr. Stimpson was educated at Harvard College. He departed this life in July, A. D. 1768. His salary was \$60 annually, and for settlement 100 acres of land. The Rev. Joseph Brown, the second minister, was ordained May 24th, 1769. He was educated at Harvard College. After much difficulty with the Church and people, he was dismissed in December, 1799."

Other items of information have been gathered from different sources, which will be given in the order of time. The Proprietors' Book shows that a Mr. Harvey was here as a preacher, as early as 1758, five or six years after the first permanent settlement, and when there were probably not more than a dozen or fifteen families on the ground. In 1761, Sept. 22, Samuel Hunt, David Goodridge and Richard Day, were chosen a committee to "provide preaching in the Township of Ipswich Canada;" and at the same time it was voted to raise "two dollars on each original Right, to pay for preaching;" and also, that "the committee be ordered to provide a preacher half the Sabbaths."

The Council which ordained the first minister, on the fifteenth of December, 1762, was called by the Proprietors. The Churches in Weston, Harvard, Lunenburg and Dorchester Canada, were invited to the Council. The Church itself was organized on that day. The manner of proceeding is a matter of conjecture; but it is probable that the first business of the Council on coming together, was to assist in organizing the Church. Then, we suppose, the Church extended a Call to Mr. Stimpson to settle with them in the Ministry. The way would thus be

prepared for the Council to proceed to the examination of the candidate, and if the examination were satisfactory, to engage in the ordination services.

At this time the number of families was from twenty to twenty-five, besides whom there were several young men without families. The number of inhabitants might have been one hundred and fifty.

#### THE CHURCH COVENANT.

The following document, obligingly furnished by the Hon. Artemas Hale, of Bridgewater, from the papers of his father, Dea. Moses Hale, was the original Covenant of the Church. It is here inserted, with the proviso made for those who became members on the basis of the Half-way Covenant.

“Professing a serious and hearty belief of the Scriptures, you do now, in an everlasting covenant, give up yourselves to God in Jesus Christ, and humbly and penitently, ask of God the pardon of all your sins through the blood of Christ. And with all your hearts you desire to accept of Jesus Christ as your Redeemer and only Saviour, as he is offered to poor sinners in the Gospel. You do also promise solemnly before God, holy angels, and this assembly, that by the help of the Holy Spirit, denying ungodliness and all worldly lusts, you will endeavor to live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; and that you will be working out your salvation with fear and trembling, that you will forsake the vanities of this evil world, and approve yourselves disciples of Christ, in all good conscience and conversation, both toward God and toward man. You do also submit and subject yourselves to the government of Christ in his Church, and to the rules of his kingdom, and discipline regularly administered in this Church. And particularly you promise, as long as God shall continue you among us, to walk in regular communion with the Church of Christ in this place; together with this people to attend all the holy ordinances and institutions of his house, and to carry it here according to the rules of the Gospel; and in all things walk agreeable to what you know, or shall know, to be your duty.

Do you thus covenant and promise?

I, then, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church, declare you members in full communion with this Church of Christ, and in the name of the Church, promise, that, by the help of the same Divine Spirit, we will carry it towards you as members of the same body with ourselves, watching over you for your good, and that in a spirit of meekness, love and tenderness, earnestly praying that God would take delight in us, dwell among us, and that his kingdom may be advanced by us. Amen.”

The Covenant, as thus given, was for "those who make no reserve, but can come immediately to the Table of the Lord." In the case of "those who make a reserve through doubts and fears, and are afraid to come to the Table of the Lord," the arrangement was to leave out all after the words—"And particularly you promise,"—and use the following formula :

"And that we will, by earnest prayer, seek for those further qualifications which we judge necessary to a worthy approach to the Table of the Lord, so that we may walk in regular communion with the Church of Christ in this place ; together with this people attend all the holy ordinances and institutions of his house, and to carry it here according to the rules of the Gospel, and in all things walk agreeable to what we know, or shall know, to be our duty.

Do you heartily consent to this Covenant ?

As you have thus solemnly covenanted with God and his Church, be careful to fulfill your covenant obligations, and perform your vows."

There was an ancient rule of the Church, perhaps adopted in Mr. Stimpson's day, "that persons stand propounded three Sabbaths as candidates for communion."

There is no list extant of the members of the Church during the settlement of Mr. Stimpson. There is no tradition in regard to the number relative to the whole population. It is known that some of the principal inhabitants, like Dea. Day, David Goodridge and others, were members. It is supposed that some joined on the "half-way" plan, in Mr. Stimpson's time. In relation to these points, the following lines from Dr. Whiton, who had means of information, not found in existing Records, will be of some value. In his pastorate of six years, "fifteen persons had been added to the little Church, and a larger number had 'owned the Covenant,' a phrase hardly intelligible at this day, but then in familiar use to signify the admission of persons to the privilege of baptism for their children, without binding themselves to the observance of the Lord's Supper, till their scruples in relation to their own moral fitness for this Christian ordinance should be removed." It is probable that the fifteen added to the Church in Mr. Stimpson's pastorate, were in addition to the original members. Richard Day was the first Deacon, and was chosen to that office on the 24th of March, 1763. It was voted at that meeting to have the sacrament of the Lord's Supper administered on the first Sabbath of the following May. Dea.

Day appears to have had no colleague till November 12, 1767, when Abel Wilder was elected.

#### DEATH AND CHARACTER OF MR. STIMPSON.

In July, 1768, Mr. Stimpson was seized with a "malignant putrid fever," and died after a few days' sickness, on the 20th day of the month. He was born in Weston, in the year 1731, and was therefore thirty-seven years of age. He was a graduate of Harvard, of the Class of 1759, a class-mate of the second Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, and of Judge Wingate, of New Hampshire. "Though," says Dr. Whiton, "not a man of vigorous intellect or showy talent, he was yet a respectable character, and though diffident and retiring, enjoyed the confidence of his people. He is said to have destroyed his manuscript sermons at the commencement of his last sickness." The Boston Chronicle of August 27, 1768, contained the following notice of his decease: "We hear from Winchendon, that on the 20th died, and on the 22d was decently interred, the Rev. Mr. Daniel Stimpson, Pastor of the Church in that place, in the 37th year of his age."

As stated in another place, his wife and two little children died before him. He left two other little children, a son named Luther, and a daughter, Sarah, to be reared by others. Sarah became the wife of Bemsly Lord, and afterwards of a Mr. Brown. She removed from town. Luther, after arriving at manhood, married a daughter of James McElwain, and left children. One of his daughters was the second wife of Mr. John Poor. His sons were Daniel, Luther and Levi. Two of his grand-sons, great-grand-sons of the minister, are clergymen, and have preached in this town. One of these is the Rev. Samuel Stimpson, Baptist, of Terre Haute, Ind.; the other is the Rev. Levi Stimpson, Episcopal, of Wilton, Conn.

An amusing incident has been handed down, which illustrates the primitive simplicity of the times, in contrast with Mr. Stimpson's better knowledge of the proprieties. One evening the supper was pudding and milk. While he was partaking of his bowl, the hired girl, who had partly eaten the contents of her basin, finding there was more than she wished, without ceremony poured the residue into the minister's basin, that he might eat it, and none be lost. Not exactly relishing such a contribution to his allowance, Mr. Stimpson quietly withdrew from the table, leaving the rest of his pudding and milk untouched.

Something of a man may be learned from his books. The inventory of Mr. Stimpson's library, amounted to £12, 18, 3, or about forty dollars. Old books are cheap. The library contained about fifty volumes, besides pamphlets. These are some of the volumes: "Mr. Henry upon the Bible, in 6 vols.;" that is, Matthew Henry's incomparable Commentary. "Dr. Tillotson's 5th vol. of Sermons, octavo;" "Derham's Demonstration of the Attributes of God;" "Hervey's Meditations;" "Pictetus' Christian Divinity;" and several works of Watts, Baxter, Willard, Mather, Clark, Rogers, Williams, &c. There is a volume of Winthrop on Earthquakes; Smith's Rhetoric, and Brattle's Logick. He had an English Dictionary, by Bailey; Latin Dictionary; Virgil's Works; Tully's Orations; Greek Lexicon; Greek Testament; Latin Testament and Grammar; Greek Grammar; Hebrew Grammar; Psalter and Bible. The Lexicons and Grammars opened to him the Bible in the original tongues, and the other books were valuable; but more were needed, especially when the minister could resort to no public library this side of Cambridge.

Mr. Stimpson left quite a handsome property for those times. His salary was \$60 yearly; he had a settlement of \$60; and the Proprietors gave him, as the first minister, one hundred acres of land. The inventory of his estate furnishes some items of interest. First, the real estate, as follows:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| " Lot No. 1, in ye South Division, containing 90 acres, £120, | £120, 0, 0 |
| "    North Division, containing 100 acres, £100,              | 100, 0, 0  |
| The House at £5, the Barn at £26,                             | 31, 0, 0   |
| Lot No. 65, contains 80 acres, £16,                           | 16, 0, 0   |
| "    74, "    "    "    25,                                   | 25, 0, 0   |
| The total valuation was                                       | £292, 0, 0 |

Among the items of personal estate were the following:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Ten tons of Hay in the barn, at £1, 12s. per ton,   | £16, 00, 00 |
| Rye, Corn, Beans, Potatoes and Flax amounted to over  | 8, 00, 00   |
| Wearing Apparel, including one Peruke, five pairs white<br>Gloves, three Neck Bands, Silver Shoe, neck and knee<br>Buckles, Watch and Pocket Compass, | 23, 02, 02  |
| Woman's Apparel, including among other things, Stone<br>Jewels, Stone Buttons, three Gold Rings, Shoe Buckles,<br>and Silk Damask Gown,               | 8, 18, 00   |
| Logs and Slitwork at ye Mill,   | 1, 02, 00   |

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| In Notes,                             | £39, 01, 08    |
| Interest on the Notes,                | 6, 07, 04      |
| On Book and accompts,                 | 30, 18, 08     |
| Stock, and Household Goods, more than | 70, 00, 00     |
| Arrearage of Salary,                  | 41, 19, 01     |
| <hr/>                                 |                |
| Making a total of                     | £538, 06, 09." |

There were other items, including "tobacco tongs," but these comprise the bulk of the estate. Mr. Stimpson was quite a business man, carrying on a farm, selling timber, and letting horse and oxen for work and journeys. Moses Hale, when he first came to town, was a hired man in his family. The house\* of Mr. Stimpson, valued at "£5," stood near where Mr. Vose now resides, and it is pleasant to add, that the great elm there was planted by him. But enough of these details, which have been given simply as illustrative of "ye olden time."

#### SETTLEMENT OF REV. JOSEPH BROWN.

The ordination of Mr. Brown took place on the 24th day of May, 1769. The terms of settlement belong to the account of the town as a parish; but the reply to the invitation to settle, finds its proper place here. It was as follows:

*"To the Church of Christ, and other inhabitants in Winchendon:*

BELOVED:—You having sometime since given me an unanimous invitation to settle with you in the Gospel Ministry; having taken this your invitation into serious consideration, and after seeking direction from Heaven, and asking the advice of my friends and relations, I have come to this conclusion, namely, to comply with this your invitation to settle with you, and accept of your offers annexed to your invitation.

Seriously entreating your fervent prayers to God for me that I may more and more be endowed with such gifts and graces as are necessary for so great and important a work, and that I may faithfully and successfully perform it, I am your sincere and affectionate friend and servant,

JOSEPH BROWN.

Winchendon, March 18th, 1769."

The settlement of a minister was effected with deliberation by the fathers. Mr. Brown was here in the autumn of 1768; he accepted the invitation to settle in the following March, and was settled in May. At this time, the Rev. Mr. Rice was settled in Westminster, Mr. Spar-

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\* It is supposed that "Logs and Slitwork at ye mill," were intended for a new house.

hawk in Templeton, and Mr. Humphrey in Athol. It is not improbable that they were members of the Council; but if so, they took no part in the services. The following extract from the Boston "Post Boy," of May 29, 1769, supplies the lack of Records. It was kindly sent by Frederic Kidder, Esq.

"On the 24th of May, 1769, was ordained at Winchendon, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Brown. The Rev. Mr. Gardner of Leominster began the solemnity with prayer; the Rev. Mr. Clark of Lexington preached a sermon well adapted to the occasion, from 1 Thess. 2: 4; the Rev. Mr. Lawrence of Lincoln prayed and gave the charge; the Rev. Mr. Woodward of Weston prayed after the charge, and the Rev. Mr. Cushing of Waltham gave the right hand of fellowship. The whole was attended upon with great seriousness and decency."

All these ministers were from towns in the neighborhood of Mr. Brown's early home, which fact accounts for their presence on this occasion. Not long after, Mr. Lee was settled in Royalston, and Mr., afterwards Dr. Cushing, father of the founder of the Cushing Academy, was settled in Ashburnham. And thus all the towns in the vicinity were supplied with the stated means of grace.

The congregation must have comfortably filled the meeting-house at the time of Mr. Brown's settlement. It is supposed there were about sixty families in the town, and not far from three hundred and fifty souls, the larger part of whom were generally found in the house of God on the Sabbath.

In due time, the minister was married—his wife, says tradition, riding into town on an ox-cart—and engaged in the duties of his calling. Where he resided at first, is not known, but sometime after the death of Dea. Day, which occurred in 1774, he came into possession of the old Day house which he occupied for several years. He was the owner of the house near the meeting-house, for a time, and probably occupied it. At that time, according to Dr. Whiton, and we can easily believe it,

"The day of straitened circumstances and occasional scanty fare had not gone by. Mrs. Brown used to say years afterwards, that when she first came to Winchendon, she found the people on and near the Common, "poor as poverty, but merry as grigs," so little is happiness dependent on external circumstances. Many families found it difficult, at certain seasons of the year, to procure meat, but subsisted on bread and milk and vegetables; and of these even the supply was often scanty. It was difficult to rear sheep on account

of the ravages of the wolves; and the cattle were too few to furnish many for slaughter. One of the most respectable women of that day often remarked, that sometimes she became (to use her own words) 'so meat hungry,' that could she have procured a piece of meat to boil with her potatoes and turnips, to season them with the flesh relish, she could have been pretty well satisfied, even though not permitted to taste the meat itself. Few fruit trees had then come into bearing condition."

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IN 1774-7.

Though there is no list of the members of the Church previous to the time of Mr. Pillsbury; yet the author has fortunately found, among the papers of Hon. Abel Wilder, a manuscript, which among many other things of great interest, contains an "Account of money contributed at the Sacrament," on several occasions, in the years 1774, 6, and 7. The names follow in the order of their dates, the spelling of the manuscript being copied exactly.

1774.

Thaddeus Bowman,  
Hannah Beal,  
David Brown,  
John Cheney,  
John Day,  
Theo's Mansfield,  
Rev. Joseph Brown,  
Francis Bridge,  
Eben'r Sherwin,  
Amos Merriam,  
Levi Nichols,  
Ruth Day,  
Phillips Sweetzer,  
Prudence Wheelock,  
Deborah Murdock,  
Miles Putnam,  
David Goodridge,  
Ezra Hide.

1776.

Releaf Oak,  
Oliv Bradstreet,

Ruth Darling,  
Hannah Parmenter,  
Hannah Biglow,  
Daniel Goodridge,  
Mrs. David Goodridge,  
Richard Pearson,  
Prudence Sawyer,  
Capt. Warner,  
Widow Oak,  
Widow Bates.

1777.

Bill Hancock,  
Capt. Boynton,  
Mary Warner,  
Elizabeth Oak,  
Mrs. Eben'r Smith,  
David Winch,  
Benjamin Brown,  
Eliphalet Goodridge,  
Capt. J. Wilder,  
Joseph Rugg.

To these should be added, Dea. Abel Wilder, and Dea Richard Day, as the latter was alive in the beginning of 1774.

There are forty-two names in the above list, besides which there are various contributions under the heads "Loos money," "In the Peace



of an Almanac," "In a pease of a pin paper," "one shilling Bill without a Name," &c., showing that others contributed besides those whose names are recorded. In approximating the actual number of members of the Church, it is necessary to remember that in many cases a male member pays for wife, and daughter, and perhaps mother and sister. In but a few instances in the above list, could husband and wife both have paid. That is, the women who paid are not wives or daughters of the men who paid. It is probable that the male members, twenty-six in number, represented a female membership more numerous than themselves. On that supposition, the whole number was, at least, equal to seventy. Take another method of estimating. There are generally in evangelical Churches, twice as many female as male members. To twenty-six males, add fifty-two females, and the number will be seventy-eight. In round numbers, there were probably eighty members of the Church, in full communion, at the opening of the Revolution. To these must be added those who joined on the "half-way" plan, since they did not attend the Communion, and therefore did not contribute on that occasion.

#### THE DEPARTURE OF MR. BROWN.

From 1777, twenty-two years passed away, of which we have no trace, except a few entries in the Records of the town. Then the difficulties which had been rife for two or three years, terminated in the dismissal of Mr. Brown. The recital of these troubles belongs principally to town history, and all that is deemed necessary has been given in the appropriate place. The town was against the minister, while a majority of the church stood by him till after his ministerial connection with them had come to an end. He was dismissed in December, 1799. All that relates to him may as well be completed in this place. The Council sustained his ministerial reputation, and gave him the usual commendation to the Churches. But a difficulty sprang up after his dismissal. He retained the Records, refusing to part with them. Such is the story as told by his opponents. A committee, consisting of the new Pastor, and the two Deacons, Messrs. Hale and Prentice, called on him for the purpose of receiving them. The interview closed unpleasantly and abruptly by Mr. Brown ordering Mr. Pillsbury to leave his house, with a threat to put him out if he did not depart. What was

said to provoke this language is not recorded. According to tradition Mr. Brown, was naturally irascible, and he might have been disturbed by what would not have excited a more gentle spirit. The committee made a formal demand for the papers, when it is supposable, at least, that there were no Records except such as Mr. Brown had kept in his own private book. A proposition before the town, about this time, to purchase a blank book for him, favors this supposition. The inference is, that the book was for him to use in recording loose papers, and inserting items from memory. This book was not furnished; perhaps because Mr. Brown declined to use it; perhaps, because, as he is reported to have said, the papers had, accidentally, been burned. If the Church had never chosen him as Clerk; and furnished him with a Book of Records, it could not make a claim for his papers, though a regard for its welfare might dictate their transfer. The fact that no legal steps were taken to compel him to surrender the Records, gives support to the view that there was no basis for a legal demand. In fact, the Records were never recovered, and the history of the Church, from its foundation in 1762 to 1799, is almost a blank.

Steps were immediately taken to discipline Mr. Brown as an offending member of the Church. He denied its jurisdiction, on the ground that he had never been received into the Church except by the ordination service. He therefore claimed that his dismissal as the pastor, severed his entire connection with the Church. But unfortunately, in a letter, he had claimed that he was a member, and the Church held him to it, while they carried on the process of discipline. The result was his excommunication. He left the town, and lived in Vermont, where he seems to have been recognized as a minister of the Gospel; from which it may be inferred, that the action of the Church did not have the moral force to effect his ministerial or christian character and standing.

Mr. Brown was a man of full habit, good size, dark eyes and hair, and dark complexion. His abilities were fair, and his learning was about equal to that of his ministerial neighbors. It does not appear that his preaching made any very marked impression, though he was a man of sense and shrewdness. An aged man, speaking of his contest with the town, said: "he was too much for the whole of them." He left three sons, named Joseph, Amos and John. His three daughters were respectably married. One was the wife of Thomas Richardson, M. D.;

another of Benjamin Hall ; and the third of Francis Goodhue, who removed to Brattleboro', where he became wealthy, and left a highly respectable family. The last scene of Mr. Brown's labors was Springfield, Vt.

#### SETTLEMENT OF MR. PILLSBURY.

This took place on the 24th of June, 1801, after the pulpit had been vacant about a year and a half. He was called after a thorough hearing, and the union lasted till his death. He was a native of Tewksbury, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, Class of 1798. His answer to the invitation to take the oversight of the Church, evinces his character, and is a prophecy of his ministry. It is therefore copied entire.

"Since it has pleased the Church and people of this town to make known their desire that I should settle with them in the Gospel ministry, I have chosen this time to give an answer.

More than six months have elapsed since I began to preach among you, during which time I have been careful to learn your minds and situation, and considering your long trials and difficulties, I think as much harmony and union prevails as might be expected. And please to accept of my warmest gratitude for that attention and respect you have ever manifested toward me since my first arrival here.

The important question respecting my settling in the work of the Gospel ministry, and in particular, among you, has caused much study and reflection. I have looked, as I trust, to heaven, for assistance and direction ; have asked advice of the fathers in the ministry ; and the opinion of friends, hoping for such counsel as shall enable me to make a decision that may terminate for the good of religion and the glory of God.

I am well sensible that such is the depravity of the human heart, such is the opposition of men by nature to the pure doctrines of the gospel, such is the unstable and fluctuating state of society, that very small is the prospect of temporal ease and profit to the faithful Preacher.

Yet as the cause of the Redeemer is great and good, as the promise of Christ is sure, "lo, I am with you to the end," as there is a future world of blessedness prepared for all the righteous, and as God has determined through the instrumentality of preaching to save them that believe, we may take courage.

I therefore now give my answer in the affirmative, and do freely agree to, and accept of, your proposals, hoping that grace, mercy and peace may be multiplied to us.

Here let it be remembered as there are many false teachers gone out into the world, as many crept into houses who have not come into the work of the ministry by the door, and wish to build on other men's foundations, it is to be understood that no one belonging to this religious society, shall invite or employ any person as a preacher, without the knowledge and consent of the pastor.

You are farther to remember that I shall except [or expect] three or four Sabbaths annually, as is usual, to visit friends and relations.

Perhaps there is no one thing more conducive to the well-being of religious society than to be united in the truth. How happy then will it be for us if we can love as brethren, strive for union, and study the things that make for peace. Knowing the imperfection of human nature, we hope to bear one another's burdens, to exercise a spirit of candor and forgiveness, and not hastily to condemn those whom we think in some things are wrong. Your preacher may sometimes be thought wrong when he is right, and sometimes thought wrong when really so ; yet [it] is hoped that your candor and prudence will influence you to consult him before you censure his doctrine or conduct, or proclaim abroad his imperfections. Truly I can say that I feel myself, quite inadequate to be employed as an Ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to preach the everlasting gospel. Yet trusting in Christ, the Great Head of the Church, I hope I may not preach nor labor in vain ; that each one may find, by happy experience, a punctual fulfillment of those duties and obligations which are incumbent both on minister and people, that all may find that it was good for us to be acquainted and united in the most solemn and important things in our world, that it may promote and advance the temporal peace and prosperity, and especially the spiritual interest, improvement and welfare of all concerned in this agreement. And that the declarative glory of God may be advanced.

LEVI PILSBERRY.

Winchendon, May 7, 1801."

"Read May 10th, 1801, by Rev. S. Payson in publick."

The Council met on the 23d of June, and was composed of the following ministers and their delegates: Rev. Messrs. John Cushing, Mr. Lees, Seth Payson, Mr. Aiken, Mr. Barton, John Osgood, and Mr. Williams. Several of the Churches sent two delegates, the last case of the kind in Councils held in this town. Mr. Sparhawk, of Templeton, was invited, but was not present. Rev. John Cushing was chosen Moderator, and Rev. Jonathan Osgood, Scribe. After prayer, the Council adjourned to the next morning, at 6 o'clock. At the meeting of the Council, the next day, the "candidate exhibited a confession of his faith;" and many questions were asked, to which he gave

satisfactory answers. Motioned and seconded to see if the Council were ready to proceed to the ordination of Mr. Levi Pillsbury. Voted in the affirmative.

“ Voted that the Rev. Mr. Cushing give the Charge ; Lev. Mr. Lee, the Ordaining Prayer ; the Rev. Mr. Osgood give the Right Hand of Fellowship ; the Rev. Mr. Barton make the Introductory Prayer ; and the Rev. Mr. Williams the Concluding Prayer ; and that the Rev. Mr. Aiken preach the sermon. N. B. Every part of the solemnities of the ordination, was performed to the great satisfaction of the audience, and Mr. Pillsbury was ordained, June 24, 1801, according to appointment. Before the Council proceeded to ordination, the candidate was received into the Church, before the whole assembly, by virtue of a dismission and recommendation from the Church in Rowley.”

Just previous to Mr. Pillsbury's settlement, on the 13th of April, 1801, the Church voted “ that no person shall in future be admitted by the Church upon the principles of what is commonly called the half-way Covenant.” This was in accordance with the views of the new minister, and the prevailing sentiment of the time. However, these *quasi* members were permitted, if they were so disposed, to come into full communion, and some availed themselves of the privilege.

The condition of the Church, in relation to spiritual things, must have been trying to the heart of the young minister. Owing to the admission of members on the half-way plan, or the laxness of the former minister's views, or neglect of discipline, or all these causes combined, the Church was in a lamentable state, and years passed away before it became united and strong. It is not needful to enter at any length, into the details of difficulties and heart-burnings that have long been sleeping in the quiet of the grave, but a glance at the situation seems to be desirable.

After disposing of the case of Mr. Brown, measures were taken to bring several members who had held aloof from the Lord's Table, back to hearty fellowship with the Church ; and in several cases, the result was a restoration of harmony. In other instances, the Records are marred with the recital of violation of covenant obligations and of the commandments of God. Different persons were dealt with, and some were expelled on account of intemperance, and of violations of the seventh commandment. These measures were proof of vigorous spiritual life, which sloughed off the dead and decaying parts of the body. By taking care in admitting new members, the Church became really much

stronger, in the course of years, though there was a decrease in the membership.

At the time of Mr. Pillsbury's settlement, there were about eleven hundred people in Winchendon, and the great mass of them were in real or nominal connection with the First Society. A Methodist and a Baptist Church had already been formed, but only a part of their members resided within the limits of the town. No means of ascertaining the precise number of members of the First Church, in 1801, can be found. On the 51st page of the Records, it is written as follows: "June 1st, 1810, 55 males, 75 females, total, 130." There is a full list of the members of the church, extending down to 1819, on pages 50-53, and 48, and it is supposed that this list comprises all those in the church when Mr. Pillsbury was settled, and all who were received during his ministry. But this is not certain. There is no way of determining when the list was made out. The list contains 159 names, as having united previous to 1810; but at that date there were only 130 members. Of these 159, 38 are marked dead, 35 removed, 3 excommunicated, and 4 have a line drawn across their names, leaving but 79 names. But as there were 130 members in 1810, it is evident that some of the 159 were not marked as deceased, removed, etc., until after 1810, so that it is impossible to learn who were members when Mr. Pillsbury came. Of the 159 in the list up to 1810, 35 were received by Mr. Pillsbury, leaving 124 who must have joined previous to 1801.

Another detached entry in the Record reads as follows: "In 1815, May 20, 107 members belonged to this church, and 6 received within a year; 40 males and 67 females." The admissions during his ministry are given below.

|          | PROP. | LETTER. |          |          |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|----------|
| In 1802, | 12,   | 11.     | In 1812, | - - - 2. |
| " 1804,  | 3,    | 1.      | " 1813,  | - - - 7. |
| " 1805,  | 2,    | 4.      | " 1814,  | - - - 9. |
| " 1806,  | 4.    |         | " 1815,  | - - - 3. |
| " 1807,  | 4.    |         | " 1816,  | - - - 3. |
| " 1810*, | - -   | 10.     | " 1817,  | - - - 1. |
| " 1811,  | - - - | 4.      | " 1819,  | - - - 9. |

The whole number is eighty-nine, about five annually.

The Church was drained by frequent removals to the Baptist and

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\* From this date no distinction is made as to the mode of becoming a member.

Methodist Churches, which were now in active operation. In addition, by removals to other Congregational Churches, and by deaths, the number was kept from increasing.

#### DEATH OF MR. PILLSBURY.

His ministry was suddenly closed by his decease, on the 5th of April, 1819, after five days sickness, of bilious colic. He was forty-eight years of age, in full strength and activity, and increasing in influence. The efforts to coerce his political action had ceased, and entire harmony prevailed in the Church. "His death-bed scene was calm and serene, and being asked what directions he wished to leave in relation to his family, he replied, 'Follow the leadings of Providence.' " The universal testimony of those who remember him is, that he was a faithful Christian minister, and a plain preacher of the evangelical truths of the Bible. His ministry came in time to save the Church from the experience of many others in the Commonwealth, which lapsed into some form of Unitarianism. Since his time, there has been no question about the adherence of the great body of the Church and congregation to the religious views of the early settlers of the town. His successors in the ministry have all been firm believers in the same system, and earnest preachers of the Gospel.

It is said by aged people, that Mr. Pillsbury became increasingly devoted to his work, and that his ministrations during the winter preceding his death, were marked by growing spirituality; and it is the general conviction of those who remember the great revival which made the beginning of his successor's ministry so memorable, that the foundation of that work of grace was then laid. He enjoyed the confidence of the Church, and the respect of the community to the last, and his memory has been revered to the present time. He was buried near the centre of the old grave-yard, where an elegant monument has been recently erected by his children, in place of a plainer one that was set up not long after his decease.

An incident in his life should be noted, because it evinces his independence of character, while it brings into view the intermeddling spirit of "Associations" at the time. In the Records is the following, under date "Dec. 19, 1804. The Westminster Association having long, and contrary to my wish, meddled with our Church discipline, I requested my relation or connection with them to be removed." It seems that

this body of ministers had been in the habit of considering cases of discipline brought before them by individuals, and of sending their advice to the Churches. In the case of a member of the Winchendon Church, they heard witnesses, and reviewed the conduct of Mr. Pillsbury and the Church. As they had no more right to do this than an association of deacons or superintendents of Sabbath Schools, he very properly denied their jurisdiction, and withdrew from them. On the 14th of June, 1806, "a number of ministers in the County of Worcester, met at the Rev. Samuel Austin's, in the town of Worcester, for the purpose of forming into an Association, to be called the Worcester Association; and agreed to meet three times in a year." Mr. Pillsbury became a member of this Association, which has always been characterized by its strict adherence to early Congregational usages.

It may be said, in conclusion, that Mr. Pillsbury has descendants quite numerous and very respectable, in this and neighboring towns.

The formal action of the Church in relation to the decease of Mr. Pillsbury, is here inserted by way of appendix to the account of his ministry:

"Tuesday, April 6, 1819. At a meeting of the Church at the meeting-house, it was voted to choose a standing Moderator, to preside at meetings during the vacancy occasioned by the death of our Rev. Pastor; also, an Assistant Moderator and Clerk. Chose for these officers respectively, Rev. John Sabin, of Fitzwilliam, Dea. Desire Tolman, and Daniel Henshaw, Esq." [This was the day after the Pastor's decease. The meeting adjourned to Thursday, the 8th, at the school-house, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Then met, and] "made arrangements for proceeding at the funeral of our late Pastor." On the 1st of May, the Church voted to "appoint a Fast on the third Thursday in May, instant." The Church also voted "that the town be respectfully invited to unite with the Church in the fast; and to invite the neighboring ministers to unite with them."

On account of Probate Court, the Fast was held on the first Thursday in June. Thus respectfully and reverently did the Church and the Town unite in paying funeral honors to the departed, and in seeking divine direction, with reference to a future minister.

#### REV. ELAM CLARK.

The efforts of the town to induce Mr. Elam Clark to become their minister, have been related in another connection. The fact that he



was for a time the most popular man that ever lived in the place, makes it proper to refer to him again. The vote in his favor was as strong in the Church as in the Parish. At a meeting held on the 26th of September, it was voted "to choose a committee of five to join the town's committee, to confer with Mr. Elam Clark concerning his preaching in this town, and with reference to his settlement. Chose Dea. Desire Tolman, Mr. Ezra Hyde, Daniel Henshaw, Mr. Hananiah Whitney and Col. Jacob B. Woodbury." Next day met again, and voted "by ballot, and chose unanimously, Mr. Elam Clark to be Pastor of this Church." After considering, Mr. Clark declined. On the 6th of March, 1820, the call was renewed, with but one dissenting vote, out of twenty-six. This call was also declined; but the people found it hard to abandon the hope of obtaining him for their Pastor. He was a man of remarkable gifts to win popular favor and esteem. The people hung upon his lips in public, and were pleased greatly with him in private. A manuscript sermon of his fails to reveal the secret of his power. It has matter enough to keep attention awake, and not enough to fatigue a common audience. The style is neat and clear, without being ornate or forcible. Ornament and illustration are judiciously employed, but the discourse does not grasp the mind and hold it by the power of intense thought or passion. Much was due, doubtless, to a pleasing person, a modulated voice and fine elocution. Add to these qualities, amiability of disposition, an interest in his hearers, and unction, and we probably have the secret of his popularity. But however accounted for, there is no question that he completely captivated all classes of the people, old as well as young. Says Dr. Whiton: "the people were enthusiastically attached" to him. He says farther, in reference to Mr. Clark's second call: "he unexpectedly and strangely declined again. It was probably happy for them that he did, as he was a man of an extremely nervous temperament, and was not successful in other places. He deceased some years ago, about 1834." It may be added that after leaving this place, he was married; that he awakened an extraordinary interest in himself wherever he preached; and that he never remained long in a place. The reason given by class-mates and friends was, that whenever he was obliged to engage in intellectual labor, his faculties seemed to be paralyzed. He had ability, taste, judgment, a desire to do good; and when his mind was entirely free from constraint, he could write with ease. As soon how-

ever as he was confronted with the dread fact that a discourse must be ready at a certain time, he grew restive, made an effort to write, became discouraged, and as a consequence, sad and mortified. It is probable that in some other calling, he would have fulfilled the high hopes of partial friends. According to Mr. Hyde, he had two calls at Tiverton, R. I., as in Winchendon. He was settled over a Church in Providence, about a year, and was then dismissed at his own request. He kept school for a while. Afterwards he resided at Suffield, Conn., with a wealthy farmer, whose daughter he had married. He died of cancer.

#### THE NEW MINISTER.

Among other candidates was a Mr. Becket of Peterborough, and Rev. Caleb Burge, a man of more than average ability. The Rev. EBER L. CLARK came to Winchendon, May 27, 1820, (being then settled as a minister in Granby, Conn.) and continued to supply the pulpit till invited to settle. At a meeting of the Church, on the 31st of July, to see "whether they would choose Rev. Eber L. Clark as their Pastor, it was voted to take the question by yeas and nays. The vote was then taken, and the whole, being twenty-seven, were in the affirmative, and accordingly the Rev. Eber L. Clark was declared unanimously elected.

1820, October 13, Mr. Clark was installed by an Ecclesiastical Council, composed ministerially as follows: the names of delegates being omitted.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Church in Ashburnham, | Rev. John Cushing.    |
| " Gardner,            | " Jonathan Osgood.    |
| " Templeton,          | " Charles Wellington. |
| " Royalston,          | " Ebenezer Perkins.   |
| " Rindge,             | " Seth Payson, D. D.  |
| " Antrim,             | " John M. Whiton.     |
| " Leicester,          | " John Nelson.        |
| " Worthington,        | " Jonathan L. Pomroy. |
| " East Windsor,       | " Thomas Robbins.     |

A note in the Church Records, probably by the hand of Mr. Clark, may claim a place here for the sake of the information it gives.

"The Rev. Eber L. Clark was born at Mansfield, Conn, March 23, 1785; was graduated at Williams College, Sept. 1811; was licensed to preach the Gospel, Feb'y, 1812; was ordained, Sept. 24th of the same year, Pastor of the First Church of Christ in Chatham, Con.; was dismissed August 13th, 1815,—

was installed Pastor of the Church in Granby, Turkey Hills Society, Con., July 3, 1816; was dismissed again, July 5th, 1820; and installed in Winchendon, October 18th of the same year. His salary, \$600, and his settlement \$400. After being destitute of a minister about 18 months, and after making several unsuccessful attempts to settle another.

The said Mr. Clark, was, soon after his installation, admitted a member of said Church, by vote of the same, on the recommendation of the mutual Ecclesiastical Council which dismissed him from his charge in Granby, Conn. As he was not admitted a member of the Church in Granby otherwise than being installed as Pastor over it, and as the Council which dismissed him from said Church was mutual, and the general recommendation which they gave of him an act in some sense of the Church herself, no other recommendation was thought necessary."

Mr. Clark's settlement was the last in regard to which the Town as a Parish took concurrent action. The Sermon was by Rev. Thomas Robbins, afterwards D. D., from the text, Psalm 122, vs. 3, 4, 5. The discourse grew directly out of the text, and related to the Church, or Ecclesiastical Government. It was arranged under three heads:

I. Its Union.

II. Its Worship. And,

III. Its Government.

The sermon evinces ability and familiar knowledge of Church history.

At the time of Mr. Clark's entrance upon his pastoral labors, the congregation was large. The population of the town was 1263, a large majority of whom were regular or occasional attendants on his ministry. The Baptist Church was in one corner of the town, and was small. The Methodist Church was in another corner, and far from numerous. There were not twenty families in the three villages where more than two-thirds of the whole population now reside. The parish extended over a large territory, several families living as far as four, and some more than five miles distant from the Common.

On the 4th of January, 1822, Samuel Prentiss, Esq. was chosen Deacon in place of Amos Heywood resigned. On the 1st of March, it was voted to "introduce Dr. Samuel Worcester's Selection of Hymns to be sung occasionally in addition to Watts' Psalms and Hymns." On the 1st of November, chose Br. Paul Raymond and Br. Reuben Hyde as Deacons of the Church.

When Mr. Clark began his ministry, the Church was not large in pro-

portion to the congregation, but there was an awakened interest in religious things. The influence of Mr. Pillsbury's life and prayers, was felt during the vacancy, and after the settlement of the new minister, and soon began to manifest itself more plainly. Besides, the preaching of Mr. Clark was fitted to produce a deep impression. He was a man of decided power in the pulpit. He was tall, had a powerful voice, and a positive manner. His sermons contained considerable thought, and were full of weighty, evangelical truth. The effect was soon manifest; indeed the work of conversion had already begun. Some who had been awakened to a sense of religious things in the latter part of Mr. Pillsbury's ministry, were now ready to unite with the Church, and six were received soon after the installation of Mr. Clark. During the next year, five were received by profession, and one by letter. In the meantime, the religious interest had spread through the town, and become almost universal. Impressions were made which have lasted to this time, and will doubtless remain through all the future.

But the year 1822 was probably the most distinguished in all the history of the town, for attention to the concerns of the soul. At the several seasons of communion, in that year, eighty-four were received into the Church on confession of their faith in Christ. Forty of these were admitted at one time, on the 11th of September. A private letter from one of Mr. Clark's sons says: "Though a very small boy at the time of their admission, I remember the scene as vividly as if it were only yesterday. I remember the features of many of them, (some still living—1867,) as they appeared standing through all the aisles of the old Church." The interest was so absorbing that afternoon and evening meetings were held right on through the warm season of the year—through haying and harvesting—and were well attended. One man of large business—Mr. Phineas Whitney,—and perhaps others, had an understanding with his workmen, that their wages would go on while they were at meeting.

This season of special attention to religious things, was drawn out into the next two succeeding years. In 1823, there were twenty-one admissions to the Church; and in 1824, fifteen, besides four by letter from other Churches; making one hundred and twenty-four in the space of about three years. From that date there were admissions from time to time. In 1831, there were thirteen, and the next year, ten. The

whole number received into communion of the Church during his pastorate was as follows :

|             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| In 1820, 6. | In 1825, 3. | In 1831, 13. |
| 1821, 6.    | 1826, 1.    | 1832, 11.    |
| 1822, 84.   | 1827, 5.    | 1833, 7.     |
| 1823, 21.   | 1828, 5.    | 1834, 2.     |
| 1824, 19.   | 1829, 2.    | 1835, 1.     |

Eighteen of this number were received from other Churches, leaving one hundred and sixty-eight who were admitted as new converts, or eleven per annum, on the average. Taking the whole number, the average was thirteen.

It would serve no useful purpose to call up from the grave, the troubles which marred the good work of grace, or disturbed the peace of the minister. Some did not walk worthy of their profession, and in some cases, the action of the Church might have been hasty. But a great and good work was wrought, whose effects have been felt to this day. In connection with what was done in the Baptist and Methodist Societies, it may be said that the town, to a large extent, experienced a moral and spiritual renovation. After an uncommonly successful pastorate of nearly fifteen years, dating from his first sermon, he asked a dismissal in the following note, dated

“ WINCHENDON, JANUARY 2, 1835.

I hereby request that I may be dismissed from my pastoral charge in this place, believing the time has come when my dismission is expedient both for me and for the people,—that another minister can be more useful here, and that I can be more useful in some other part of the Gospel vineyard.

Praying that grace, mercy and peace may be multiplied to you abundantly, through our Lord Jesus Christ, I subscribe myself yours in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel.

EBER L. CLARK.”

The same day, the Church voted to comply with his request, and a committee was chosen to unite with him in calling a Council. In due time, the Council met, and he was honorably dismissed. A few additional facts will be interesting to some here who yet live to remember him with grateful affection. According to a note from his son, Julius L. Clark, Esq., Chief Clerk in the State Auditor's office, he was born in 1786, instead of 1785, as stated on a former page. He “fitted for College under the instruction of the late Rev. Dr. Jennings, of Dalton, Mass., to which place he removed with his parents in early childhood.”

After leaving College, in 1811, he immediately commenced his "theological studies with Rev. Mr. Hinsdale of Hinsdale, and was licensed in the following year by the Berkshire Association." His first settlement was in Chatham, Conn., in that part now called Portland. In about three years he was dismissed "at his own request, and for reasons wholly his own." In Granby he "maintained a pleasant and useful ministry of six years." Soon after his ordination, in 1812, he "married Mary, daughter of Dea. Charles Starkweather, of Worthington, Mass. She died in Winchendon, in 1832." His ministry of fifteen years in this place, has already been described. "Then followed a pastorate of three years at Berlin, Mass., terminating in accordance with his own wish and request. He was immediately installed at Richmond, Mass., where for fifteen years he continued the beloved and honored pastor of an affectionate congregation. In 1853, he became the pastor of the Church in Washington, Mass., a relation which he sustained for four years, or until his death; his aggregate ministry covering a period of forty-six years." His second wife whom he married not far from the time of his removal from Winchendon, was Sarah Lawrence, of Norfolk, Conn., who survived him. He had six children, three of whom, the two oldest, and the youngest, are now—1868—living. Six weeks previous to his own decease, he was called to officiate at the funeral of a "dear brother in the ministry," Rev. C. H. Norton, at North Becket, "little dreaming that his own lifeless form would so soon rest upon the same altar, and his funeral discourse be so shortly delivered from the same pulpit. The day was one of unusual inclemency, and from the effects of his exposure, he fell into a rapid decline, gently and sweetly falling asleep in Jesus. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Todd, of Pittsfield, from John 3: 2. At the conclusion of these obsequies, his earthly remains were removed to Richmond, for interment."

The following passages are taken from the funeral discourse by Dr. Todd:

"His character was every way symmetrical, and his talents highly respectable. Indeed, though I have often heard his public performances, I never saw a failure, and never heard him preach a poor sermon. I have often heard others make the same remark. He was a modest, unassuming man, but an earnest and faithful preacher. I can account for his multiplied removals only on the supposition that he was too meek to contend with difficulties. He was

diffident to a fault, when the day demands that the ministers of God shall not be like reeds shaken by the wind. But all this modesty was based upon 'the meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of the Lord, is of great price.' I have seldom known a public man who seemed to me so free from envy and jealousy. It never seemed to trouble him that others had higher seats in the synagogue or at the feast. On the contrary, he rejoiced at every measure of usefulness that others could fill. I never heard him make an envious or jealous or a severe remark about any one. \* \* \* To those who have known Br. Clark long as I have, I need not say that he was an affectionate husband, and a most kind and considerate father. His house was such as his brethren loved to visit. \* \* \* Mr. Clark was a good man. We loved to hear him pray in our associations and at our ordinations. We have every reason to feel that he walked with God. \* \* \* After having served his generation for forty-five years as a minister of Jesus Christ, his sun gradually went down, but the sky was clear, and if there was anything in the shape of clouds, they were lined with silver and coated with gold. \* \* \* We can say of him what is a great thing to say of any man, that he lived and died by the grace of God, at the full age of three-score and ten, and has gone down to the grave without reproach, with an unsullied reputation, and with the confidence and respect of all who knew him."

#### THE MINISTRY OF REV. DANIEL O. MORTON.

After hearing various ministers during the spring and summer, the Church, on the 9th of December, 1835, voted and "chose (unanimously) the Rev. Daniel O. Morton as Pastor." He was then settled in Springfield, Vt., where his people desired to retain him. Extra efforts were necessary to induce him to remove. On the 17th of January, 1836, the Church chose Rev. Lemuel P. Bates, of Templeton, to represent their case "before the Ecclesiastical Council to be convened at Springfield, in reference to the dismissal of Mr. Morton. Deacons Hyde and Raymond were chosen a committee to make a statement to Mr. Bates." Mr. Morton was dismissed by the Council, and accepted the invitation to come hither. He was settled on the 2d of March. The proceedings of the Council will not be given, as the date is too recent to have the smack of antiquity. The public services were as follows:

"Invocation and Reading the Scriptures, by Rev. George Goodyear, Ashburnham; Introductory Prayer, Rev. Sumner Lincoln, Gardner; Sermon, Rev. Cyrus Mann, Westminster; Consecrating Prayer, Rev. Ebenezer Per-

kins, Royalston ; Charge to the Pastor, Rev. Amos W. Burnham, Rindge ; Right Hand, Rev. Alexander Lovell, Phillipston ; Address to the People, Rev. Lemuel P. Bates, Templeton ; Concluding Prayer, Rev. Giles Lyman, Jaffrey."

The congregation was still quite large at the time of Mr. Morton's settlement. The meeting-house was well filled, below and in the gallery, on pleasant Sabbaths. The members of the Church numbered 171, which was 15 less than were added in the pastorate of his predecessor, showing that the removals by death and otherwise, had been quite numerous. The two first years of Mr. Morton's labors here resulted in large accessions to the Church. He was a man much above mediocrity both in regard to his general abilities, and his gifts as a public speaker. He held the "pen of a ready writer," and was prompt in the fulfillment of every duty. He was what is sometimes styled a "revival preacher," and delighted in scenes of religious awakening. He was active in the use of all those allowable measures which characterized the era of "protracted meetings," when religious services were held four or five days in succession. He was a man of warm heart, of kindly feeling toward all, and of a persuasive tongue ; and withal, felt a deep interest in the welfare, temporal and spiritual, of the people of his charge. Besides preaching on the Sabbath, and in school-houses, he performed much labor from house to house. In the first year of his pastorate here, forty-six were added to the Church, and in 1836, sixty-one. In the next three years, five, five, and seven, respectively. The whole number in six years, was one hundred and twenty-four, or about twenty per annum. The Church was larger the second year of his ministry, than ever before or since, there being about two hundred and seventy-five members. Though a faithful and discriminating preacher, he was perhaps too urgent in pressing persons feeling an interest in religion, to unite with the Church. Probably some of the trouble which he experienced here, and some of the defections among those received in his time grew out of this fact. But after making due allowance, it is most certain that his labors here were abundant, and were crowned with the blessing of God.

After a settlement of rather more than five years, Mr. Morton asked a dismission, which was effected by a mutual Council, on the 29th of June, 1841. The Council spoke of him as an "able, faithful and



useful servant of Christ," who had "labored with more than usual success."

After leaving here, he was settled at Bristol, N. H., in 1842, where he closed his ministry and his life, on Thursday, March 25, 1852.

He was the author of the *Life of the Rev. LEVI PARSONS*, one of the early Missionaries of the American Board, and of other works, besides single discourses, of considerable literary merit. Farther particulars would be given here, were it not that an extended notice of him may be found in the *History of Shoreham, Vt.*, the place of his first settlement, and also in a sermon by Dr. Bouton, and an obituary address, by Prof. Eli B. Smith, delivered at his funeral, and both published in the same pamphlet. These gentlemen, who knew him well, speak of him in the most affectionate and appreciative terms, the latter closing his remarks in these words: "thus died a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith."

#### THE ERA OF SUPPLIES.

There was an interval of about five years before the settlement of another minister, but the pulpit was filled almost without interruption, by stated or occasional supplies. In 1842, March 21, the Church invited Rev. EDWIN LEIGH to become its pastor. He was in the Parish about two years, though he declined a settlement. Mr. SHEDD, Principal of the Appleton Academy, at New Ipswich, preached on several occasions. Rev. ROBERT W. FULLER did good service, and was highly esteemed. From May till November, 1843, Mr. ABIJAH P. MARVIN, a recent graduate of Yale Theological Seminary, supplied the pulpit, while that portion of the parish living in the Village and the north part of the town, were building a sanctuary, and preparing to found a new Church. At this time the house was quite well filled though not crowded. The Methodist Church had been established in the Village ten or twelve years, and the congregation was respectable in number. Many had withdrawn from the congregation at the Centre, on account of the difficulties about ministers, and in Church discipline, some of whom never were stated attendants on public worship at any place afterwards. Perhaps two hundred and fifty or three hundred, on pleasant Sabbaths, were found in the old meeting-house.

Rev. BENJAMIN RICE was acting pastor, though not formally installed, from the latter part of the year 1843, till his decease in 1846.

He was born in Sturbridge, May 9, 1784, and was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, which occurred on the 12th of July, 1847. He was a graduate of Brown University. He had been settled in Skenectates, N. Y., South Deerfield, Mass., and New Gloucester, and Buxton, Me. As a man of sense, piety, industry and gentle disposition, he was useful in the ministry. His wife was Lucy, daughter of Capt. Phineas Whitney, who still survives; and his children are Hon. William W. Rice, of Worcester, Charles J. Rice, Esq., of Winchendon, and Mrs. Lucy Anna, wife of Rev. Milan H. Hitchcock, formerly missionary to Ceylon. During these five years, but five persons were admitted by profession; that is, three in 1842, and two in 1843. From this last date, there were no admissions till 1850; but the losses were great. On the 28th of November, 1843, sixty-five members were dismissed, with recommendation, to form the North Congregational Church. Besides, many on the Church roll were absent from town. After this time, the congregation was much reduced, and the Church labored under discouragement, as many believed that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to sustain two Churches not more than a mile apart.

#### LATER MINISTERS.

However, the Church made commendable exertions to sustain the institutions of the Gospel. On the 19th of November, 1846, the Rev. MALACHI BULLARD was settled by ordination services. He labored faithfully till his removal by death in the spring of 1849. During weeks of decline his soul was inspired with profound peace and submission, and animated with joyful hope. His will seemed lost in Christ. He was esteemed by his people, and his ministerial brethren, who lamented his early removal from this society. The sermon at his funeral was preached by the writer. His remains were taken to Medway.

The Rev. JOHN STORRS was installed August 22, 1849, and continued in his pastorate nearly five years, when he was suddenly cut off at the age of fifty-two. The following entry was made in the Church Records, May 8, 1852.

“Rev. John Storrs, Pastor of this Church, after a short but distressing sickness, was removed by death from an affectionate Church, in the midst of his labors and usefulness, much respected and highly prized, to occupy, as we confidently believe, a higher place in the presence of his Saviour, God, aged 52.”

The author's respect and affection for Mr. Storrs, are expressed in a funeral sermon, which was published at the time. It contains the main facts of his useful life, and may be found by any desiring to see it, for information, in the library of Brown University, of which he was a graduate. In a word, it may be said, that he was a thoroughly sincere and godly man; devoted to his family, and his people, and his God; of tender sensibilities and literary tastes, and full of a generous public spirit. His wife has carried out his designs in the education of his children, who are their crown of honor.

During the pastorate of Mr. Storrs, the ancient Church, erected in 1792, was taken down, and the materials were used in building a house of smaller dimensions. Not only were the timbers sound, but the clapboards, split fifty years before, were better than could be obtained new. The house was placed a little west by north of the old site.

The pulpit was supplied by several ministers until the settlement of Rev. BENJAMIN F. CLARKE, on the 24th of October, 1855. After a ministry of nearly ten years, useful and harmonious on the whole, though under discouraging circumstances, he was honorably dismissed by a mutual Council in April, 1865. The constant tendency of the population to the villages weakened the society from year to year. There were no admissions from 1843 to 1849. In Mr. Storrs' time, thirteen were received, besides some others, including his own children, who united with Churches in other towns to which they removed. In the next eight years, twelve were admitted. Several members of this Church, excellent young men, fought against the rebellion, and died in the service of their country. Mr. Clarke now resides at Wellesley, Mass., still active after a half-century of faithful service in his Master's cause.

Different ministers officiated until May, 1867, when Rev. MILAN H. HITCHCOCK became acting pastor, besides taking charge of the High School in the Village. By his indefatigable efforts, the congregation was somewhat enlarged, and eleven were gathered into the Church, in 1867. Since the present year came in, five have been added, making sixteen, on profession.

The Deacons of this Church have been Richard Day, Abel Wilder, Moses Hale, Samuel Prentiss, Levi Moor, Amos Heywood, Israel Whifton, Desire Tolman, George Coffin, Samuel Prentiss, Jr, Reuben Hyde, Paul Raymond, John Cutter, Levi Prentiss, and George Cummings.

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## 2. THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEW BOSTON.

Searching for the origin of a Church is sometimes like looking for the source of a river in the mountain. You think it is found, when farther survey reveals a little stream which comes from a spring still higher. Dr. Whiton thought the Baptist Church was not organized previous to the settlement of Mr. Pillsbury in 1801. At that time, he says :

“The great mass of the people were still of the Congregational denomination. A very few individuals were Methodists, and a very few Baptists ; but probably more than nine-tenths were Congregationalists. There had been a very little occasional Baptist preaching from a date perhaps as early as 1793, by Elder Moses Kinney of Royalston. At what time a Baptist Church was organized, I cannot state. It was probably subsequent to the ordination of Mr. Pillsbury.”

Mr. Hyde, in 1848, said : “about fifty years ago.” This is according to the fact. The first mention of Baptists in the Town Records, is under date of February 10, 1783, when there was an article in the warrant “to see if the town will vote to exempt those persons from paying taxes to the settled minister in the Town, who attend Baptist or Friends meetings.” The article was passed over, but came up again next March, when it was voted to “submit the article to the judgment of the Assessors.” They probably laid no tax on the parties concerned. There was one man, Jeremiah Stuart, who sometimes claimed to be a Friend or Quaker. Whether the meetings which the Baptists attended, were held in this town, or near the border, is not certain. If they went out of town to find a place of worship, they might have thought it unfair to be obliged to help support a service which they did not attend. The point was before the town again in March, 1800, when money was to be raised for paying damages to Rev. Mr. Brown. “Those persons who were of the denomination of Baptists or Methodists” asked for exemption from tax to pay the bill. The matter was left with the Assessors, who, of course, declined the responsibility of laying the tax.

From the above citations it is a fair inference that there was Baptist preaching in this vicinity as early as 1783. It might have been sometimes in Royalston, and sometimes in Winchendon, or Templeton. The Church was composed of members belonging to these towns, and also Fitzwilliam. An effort was made to form a new town, by taking portions from three or four, as Winchendon, Royalston, Templeton, and

perhaps Phillipston, with New Boston as the centre, in 1794. This was always the centre of the Baptist Society. Meetings were held at the house of Mr. John Whitmore, in the edge of Royalston ; and sometimes in his barn. They were held also in the house of Mr. Thomas Wyman, just across the road from the late Mr. Silas Wyman's. The Church was finally organized in the house of Mr. Whitmore, in the year 1798. Among the preachers, were Messrs. Moses and Aaron Kinney, and Ephraim Whitney. Among the members, besides Mr. Whitmore, and perhaps Mr. Wyman, were John Bosworth and his wife, who was the first person born in this town, and Thornton Barrett. One of the earliest deacons was Asa Nourse, who lived about half way from the meeting-house to the Sibley mill. His house was the resort of the elders and brethren whenever the meetings were held in his neighborhood. In the words of his son, he had "entertained ministers and brethren enough to make a man rich if he had been paid." After meeting for several years, in private dwellings, they built a 'Society house' as it was called, about 1811. It was located where the meeting-house now stands, and was used for a school-house. The old building is now a dwelling-house, painted dull yellow, a little north of the house of Mr. Daniel Day, on the east of the road.

Elder Samuel Simonds was the first stated minister. He was from Templeton. His ordination took place, in the society house, in the fall of 1816. He was influential in securing the erection of the meeting-house in 1820. He died in 1837, aged 66. He had six children, viz: Stillman, Ephraim, Albert, Frederick, George and Mary. His wife's maiden name was Abbott. Mr. Simonds was held in respect by the people of the town generally. At the time of Mr. Pillsbury's death, there was a town meeting to make arrangements for the funeral, when he was requested to offer prayer, and by vote he was invited to attend the funeral with the Congregational clergy of the neighboring Churches. Under his ministrations the Baptist Church had a healthy growth. At times, there were special manifestations of the Spirit's power in the conversion of souls. His name is yet mentioned gratefully by survivors who were benefitted by his labors. After his decease, there was preaching by elder Brown. Elder Jones supplied the pulpit about two years. He was followed by Rev. Warren Cooper, who occupied the field two or three years, in 1840-2. From that date to 1849, Rev. Andrew Dunn was the Pastor. Besides attending to his pastoral duties with

fideliity, he was very useful as a member of the School Committee. After his removal to the Baptist Church in the Village, Mr. Cooper returned, and remained several years. He was indefatigable and self-sacrificing in procuring the remodeling of the meeting-house, in 1851, by which it was greatly improved in appearance and convenience. Of late years, the pulpit has been acceptably supplied by elder Fay, of Athol, and elder Culvert. The following have been deacons of this Church, viz: Asa Nourse, Isaac Stockwell, Joseph Norcross, James Norcross.

### 3. THE METHODIST CHURCH.

In preparing the following account of the Methodist Church, the author is indebted to the late Mr. Smyrna Greateon, for most of the facts, and much of the language used. In making extracts, there is a change from the first to the third person. As Mr. Greateon was a leading member of the Society for many years, and held several official relations to the Church, at different times, he was qualified to give a correct narrative. He begins his manuscript with the heading: "A correct account of the rise and progress of the Methodist Episcopal Society in Winchendon." According to him, the "first sermon ever delivered in Winchendon, by a Methodist preacher, was by Rev. Lorenzo Dow, about the 26th or 27th of October, 1796." Mr. Dow says in his Journal: "From Warwick I went to Orange, and preached in the Presbyterian Meeting-house, the clergyman having left town. Being this day nineteen years old, I addressed myself to the youth." On the 23d of October he says: "I preached in Warwick, thence to Petersham and Winchendon, to Fitchburg, and also to Notown;\* thence to Ashburnham." Under date of November 21, he says: "I preached in Rindge." Mr. Dow was born October 16, 1777; consequently the date of his preaching here is October, 1796. Mr. Greateon continues:

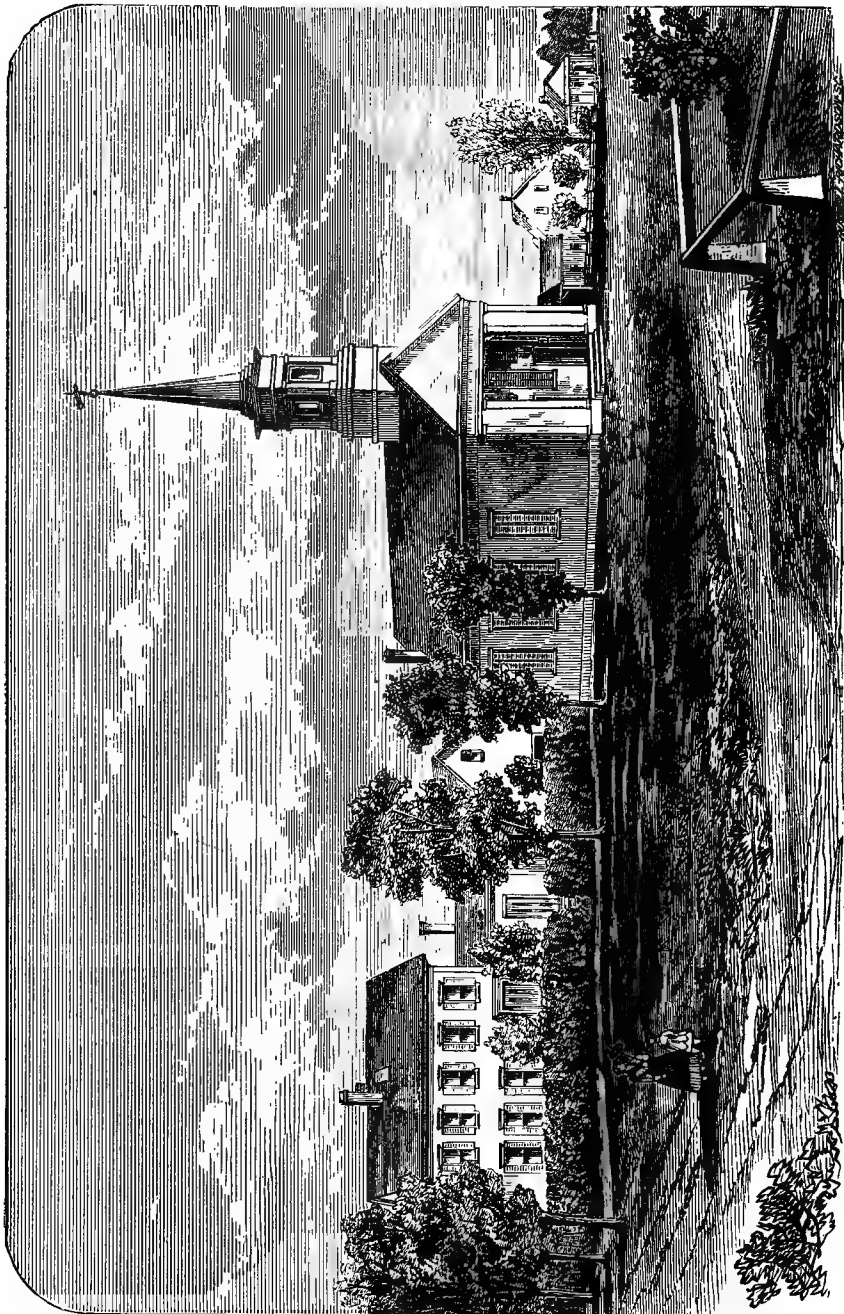
"As early as 1797, the Methodist preachers commenced their labors in the east part of this town, and preached occasionally at the house of Mr. Roger Bigelow, which stood a few feet east of where Oliver Estey recently lived; [that is, just east of the No. 5, School-house,] and more recently at the house of Mr. Ebenezer Richardson,† and also at Mr. Bartholomew Stearns'.‡ Mr. Bigelow and two daughters, and Mr. Richardson, made a profession of religion,

\* This was a tract at the east of Wachusett mountain.

† Now Henry Wyman.

‡ Now Capt. Levi Stearns.





Methodist Church.

WILLIAM BEAMAN.

SCHOOL HOUSE.



and (if I have been rightly informed,) united with the Society in the north-westerly part of Ashburnham. One or two others united with them in the course of the next two years. There was also preaching occasionally by Methodist ministers, at the northwest part of this town, and the southeast part of Fitzwilliam, in the years 1797-8-9, and quite a number professed faith in Christ as their present Saviour."

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in this town, in the year 1800. It was composed mostly of members from Fitzwilliam and the westerly part of Rindge, numbering *in all*, not more than twelve or fourteen members.

"During this and the succeeding year, some fifteen persons were added to the Church by profession. From 1800 to 1807, meetings were held regularly on the Sabbath, at the house of Mr. Stephen Weston. This year, 1807, the Society built their first Meeting-house, on land given by Mr. Weston for the purpose. The building committee and trustees were William Poland, Stephen Weston, Silas Warner, William Crane and Barzillai Martin. The house was located some twenty rods northwest from the house now owned and occupied by Mr. Eleazar P. Weston, and on the road leading from Mr. Weston's to Mr. Sumner Brooks'. The house was 36 by 28 feet, with 10 foot posts, with door in front. The aisle was four feet wide; the pulpit was in the rear, and elevated about three feet from the floor. The house was furnished with free seats."

#### NEW MEETING-HOUSE.

In 1832, this house being too small for the accommodation of the growing congregation, and being located at the northwest part of the town, and in a corner of the territory over which the congregation were scattered, it was thought expedient to build a house in a more central place. After holding several consultations on the subject, the Society concluded to build a house in the Village. "A building committee consisting of Edward Loud, Smyrna Greateon, David Poland, Joseph Stone and Simon B. Poland, was appointed, who secured a spot of ground, and contracted with Capt. Ephraim Murdock to build a house thereon, 66 by 41 feet, with a tower; for which they agreed to pay the said Murdock, \$1900. The house was finished according to contract, and was dedicated on the 11th day of October, 1833." The dedication sermon was by Rev. Orange Scott. Rev. Oliver E. Bosworth assisted in the devotional services. This was a convenient house, and well proportioned, with the exception of the tower, which was according to a

style then prevalent. The top resembled a table turned bottom upward, with the four legs projecting into the air. A good bell was placed in the tower in 1840 or 1841.

In 1851, the house being very much out of repair, the society proceeded to reconstruct and enlarge it. The audience room was re-finished, and a new pulpit and altar were procured. The orchestra was erected in the rear of the audience room, and a vestry was fitted up in the gallery. Three feet were added to the length of the house, to make room for stairs and a recess. The tower was raised twelve feet, and a steeple was added, extending about thirty-five feet above the tower. The audience room and orchestra were carpeted, and the seats were cushioned. The whole expense for these repairs was about \$2300. The house was dedicated on the 2d day of October, 1851. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Philander Wallingford, the minister then in charge. Rev. Miner Raymond preached the sermon, and Rev. A. P. Marvin, by request, delivered an address on the proper care of the House of God.

There were some additions to the Church by profession, from 1801 to 1823, but the increase in number did not much exceed the decrease by deaths and removals.

“In the fall and winter of 1824-5, there was a good revival of religion in the Society, and some twelve or fourteen persons united with the Church. In 1827 also, several joined by letter and profession. In 1833 a protracted meeting was held in connection with the dedication of the meeting-house, and a respectable number were added by profession of their faith. In the fall of 1837 another protracted meeting was held, which resulted in the conversion of some fifteen or twenty persons, most of whom united with the Church. In the winter of 1842-3, there was a powerful revival of religion in this place, and about twenty persons were added to the Church. From that time to the present, there have been frequent accessions, both by letter and by profession, but the decrease by deaths and removals has sometimes nearly equaled the increase. But on the whole some progress has been made in regard to numbers. In 1833 the membership did not exceed fifty; in 1865 there were one hundred and seventy-one in full membership, besides seventeen probationers.”

Mr. Greaton continues:

“Our former records were very imperfect, at best, but were all lost down to the year 1837. I have had access to the first and second volumes of Dr. Abel Stephens' History of Methodism in New England, where I find the names

of the preachers, and where they were stationed by the Conference, from the commencement of Methodism in New England, down to the year 1809, which was three years previous to the time when I became a member. From the time of the formation of the Society to 1812, (the year that I became a member,) I am indebted to Mrs. Eunice E. Poland for much valuable information. She united with the Church in 1801, and is now,—1865—the senior member of the Church, by eleven years. My name appears next on the Records, bearing date March, 1812. The Records now show that all of the former members of the Church have passed away by death or removals, (with the two exceptions above named,) down to 1824. In this and the succeeding year, we find an addition of ten or twelve members, five of whom are still living in this town, and are members of the Church. Of those who were members when the present house of worship was first occupied in 1833, only twelve members remain, all others having been removed by death or otherwise.”

#### THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

The first Sabbath School in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Society, was organized in the summer of 1824. It consisted of about twenty scholars, a superintendent and three teachers. “The first ten or twelve years, our school was discontinued through the winter, and for several years we were destitute of a library.” A few books were occasionally purchased, which “were distributed as presents among the children. Some thirty-three or four years ago, one hundred volumes, (published expressly for Sabbath Schools,) were purchased, and our library has been replenished from time to time, till now, in 1865, it contains six hundred and thirty volumes.” The scholars number one hundred and seventy-one.

#### NAMES OF THE PREACHERS.

It would be impossible, says Mr. Greaton, “for me to give a correct list” of all the Methodist ministers who have preached in this town. In the early days of Methodism, it was not unfrequently the case that the Presiding Elder transferred preachers from one field to another, after three or six months, where it was thought they might be more useful. “As new fields were frequently opening, the early preachers were often transferred to those new fields of labor, and generally in a few weeks, some other persons would be appointed to fill their place. Consequently we can obtain from the minutes of the Conference, only

the names of the preachers who were stationed at the meeting of the Conference." Here follows the list, from 1796 to 1868, inclusive :

#### MINISTERS' NAMES.

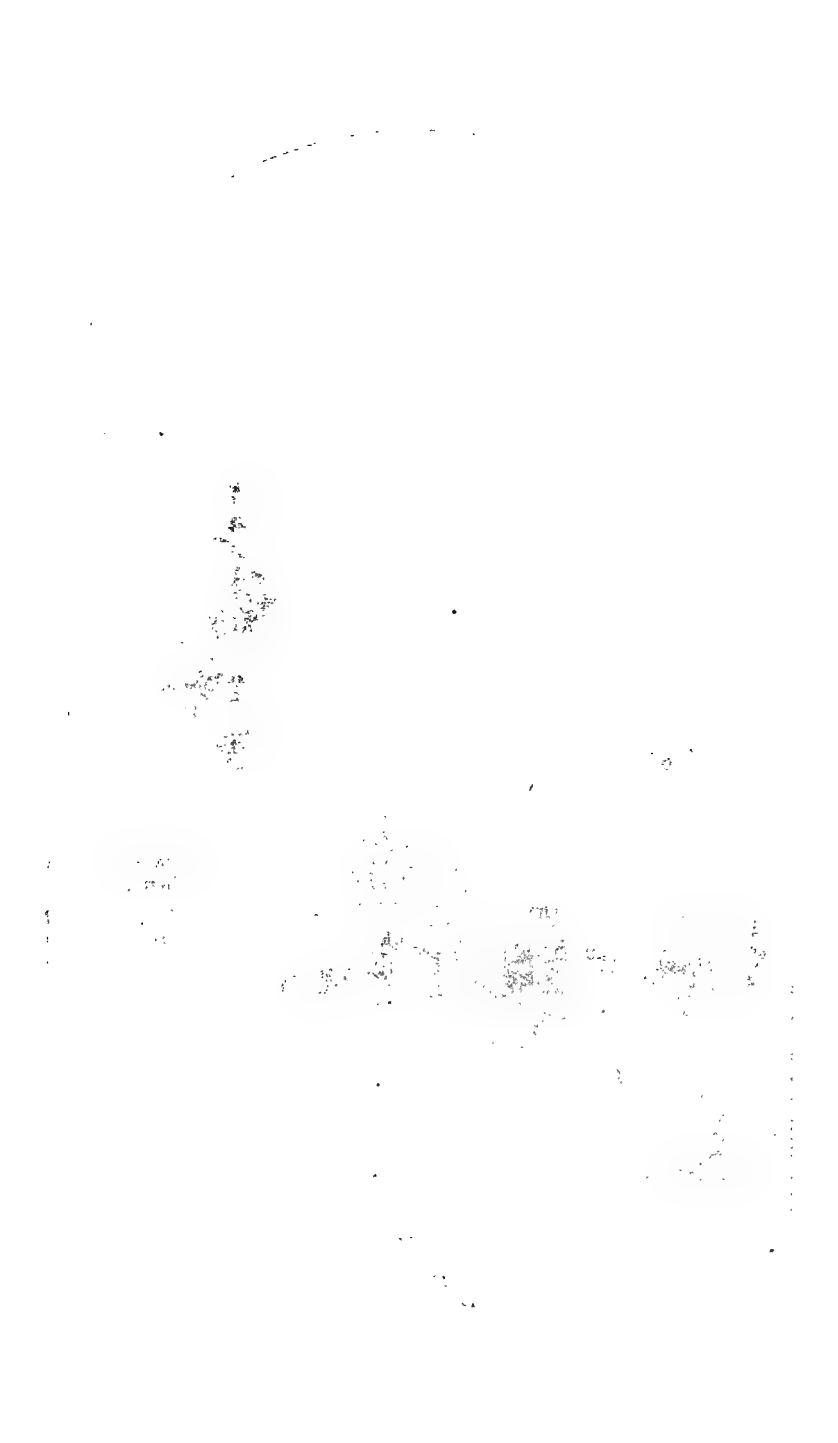
|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1796. Lorenzo Dow, P. Wager.      | 1825. Asahel Otis.                |
| 1797. Smyth Weeks.                | 1826. J. E. Risley, Hiram Waldon. |
| 1798. Elijah Bachelor.            | 1827. Wm. Nelson, R. Spaulding.   |
| 1799. John Nichols, D. Browley.   | 1828. Henry J. Wooley.            |
| 1800. Henry Eames.                | 1829. Enoch Bradley, H. Mayo.     |
| 1801. Abner Wood, Martin Rutter.  | 1830. William Braynard.           |
| 1802. John Gove, Nathan Felch.    | 1831. P. Townsend, E. Stephens.   |
| 1803. Joshua Crowell, Phin. Cook. | 1832. P. Townsend, Obed Sperry.   |
| 1804. Thomas Ravlin.              | 1833. O. E. Bosworth, D. Graves.  |
| 1805. Wm. Stephens, J. Tinkham.   | 1834. H. Moulton, Philetus Green. |
| 1806. Benjamin Hill, Bela Willis. | 1835. Otis Wilder, Thos. Marcy.   |
| 1807. Asa Hunt, Elisha Streeter.  | 1836-7. Richard Livesey.          |
| 1808. Benj. Hoyt, G. R. Norris.   | 1838-9. Stephen Cushing.          |
| 1809. David Carr, Robert Arnold.  | 1840-1. Nathan B. Spaulding.      |
| 1810. Ph. Munger, Step. Wingate.  | 1842. George W. Bates.            |
| 1811. Joel Steele, ——— Lewis.     | 1843. John T. Pettee.             |
| 1812. Thomas W. Tucker.           | 1844. Kinsman Atkinson.           |
| 1813. E. Streeter, V. R. Osborn.  | 1845-6. David K. Merrill.         |
| 1814. A. Stebbins, Benj. Shaw.    | 1847-8. William Gordon.           |
| 1815. B. Sabin, S. Winchester.    | 1849. Howard C. Dunham.           |
| 1816. Edw. Hyde, L. Bennett.      | 1850-1. Philander Wallingford.    |
| 1817. L. Bennett, E. Steele.      | 1852-3. Damon Y. Kilgore.         |
| 1818. Joel McKee, Wm. Wright.     | 1854. A. Flagg.                   |
| 1819. A. Taylor, G. W. Fairbanks. | 1855-6. Silas Piper.              |
| 1820. Phinehas Crandall.          | 1857-8. William J. Hambleton.     |
| 1821. E. Dunham, H. Thatcher.     | 1859-'60. J. W. P. Jordan.        |
| 1822. Barzillai Pierce.           | 1861-2. Thomas B. Treadwell.      |
| 1823. W. Barstow, Benj. Paine.    | 1863-5. Edward S. Best.           |
| 1824. A. Lummus, J. Harrington.   | 1866. William Pentecost.          |

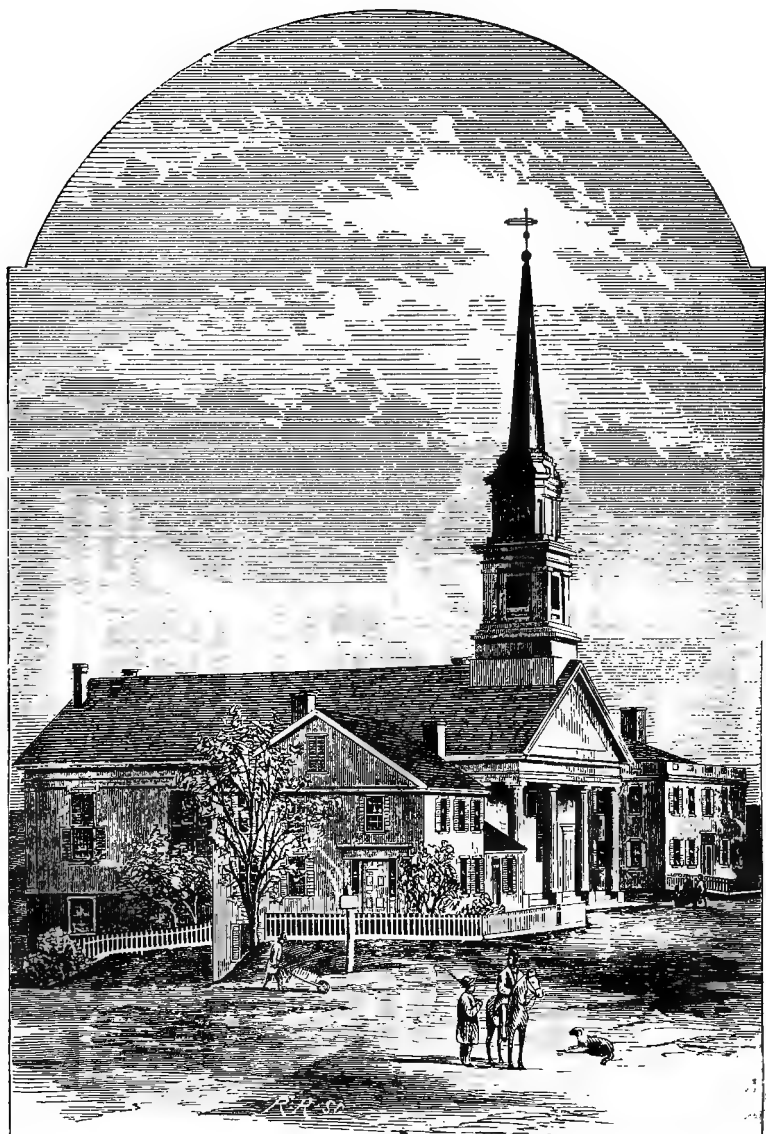
"P. S. Previous to 1836, Winchendon Society belonged to Ashburnham circuit, which accounts for having two preachers in a year. In 1836, we were made a station."

The following, found in the Town Records, follows properly as an appendix to the foregoing account of the Methodist Episcopal Society. It is entitled,

#### "EBENEZER RICHARDSON'S LICENSE TO PREACH."

"This may certify that Ebenezer Richardson has applied to us for liberty to preach in our Church, and after examination concerning his gifts, grace and usefulness, we judge him a proper person to be licensed, and we accord-





North Congregational Church.

ingly authorize him to preach. Signed in behalf of the Quarterly Conference held at Ashburnham.

ERASTUS OTIS, *Presiding Elder.*

Rindge, July 18th, 1818."

"This may certify that Ebenezer Richardson, Jr., of Winchendon, is a regular member of a religious Society in Winchendon, called Methodist, and pays there.

STEPHEN WESTON,  
SMYRNA GREATON,  
BARZILLAI MARTIN.

Winchendon, Sept. 7, 1820."

#### THE PARSONAGE.

The old parsonage was not owned by the Church, but by an association of the members formed for the specific purpose. The present parsonage stands on the old location. It was finished in June, 1864. The cost was about \$2500. It is a residence creditable to the Society. The building committee were Messrs. William L. Woodcock, Aaron Winch and William Wilder. The Rev. Mr. Best, who was in charge at the time, was very efficient in his efforts to secure a good parsonage for his successors. New parsonages and church edifices are his monuments in various places.

#### 4. THE NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The tendency of the population towards the Village, which began about 1830, created a necessity for religious privileges there. Accordingly the Methodist Society acted wisely for themselves, and for the public good, when they erected their new house of worship, in 1832-3. For similar reasons, those members of the Congregational Church and congregation who resided in the northern part of the town, felt impelled to establish a meeting for themselves, and others who might join them, in the Village, and in 1842, or the beginning of 1843, several persons formed a company to build a meeting-house, which should be transferred to a regular Congregational Parish, in due time. The names of the members of this company are copied below, to gratify the curiosity of a future generation. They are as follows: Reuben Hyde, Ezra Hyde, Asa Hyde, Job Hyde, Artemas Edmands, Alvah Godding, Elisha Hyde, John Hyde, Oliver Lovejoy, Samuel Brown, John Forristall, Isaac Goodspeed, Elisha Beaman, Ebenezer Butler, Nathan H. Hand, Mark Whitcomb, Harvey Wyman, Levi N. Fairbanks, William

Tolman, Sidney Fairbanks, William Brown, Daniels Ellis, Seth Tucker, Jr., Cyrus Houghton. This company chose a building committee, consisting of Mark Whitcomb, Esq., Dr. A. Godding, Dea. Ebenezer Butler, and perhaps others were members.

The frame was raised on a pleasant day in June, 1843. A prayer was offered on the occasion by Mr. Marvin, at the time supplying the pulpit on the hill. The house was about 64 by 44 feet, including the portico and pillars—five feet—in front. The spire rose 110 1-2 feet from the ground. There were sixty-two slips on the floor of the house, besides a singers' gallery. The audience room was neatly finished, and quite pleasant. The original cost was not far from \$5,000.

#### CHURCH ORGANIZED.

THE NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Winchendon, was constituted by a regular Ecclesiastical Council, on the 7th day of December, 1843. The Council was composed of the following members: From the Church in Royalston, Rev. Ebenezer Perkins, Br. William Chase; Rindge, Rev. A. W. Burnham, Dea. L. Goddard; Templeton, Rev. Lewis Sabin, Dea. B. Hawkes; Winchendon, Dea. Paul Raymond. Rev. Benjamin Rice acted with the Council by request. Mr. Perkins was moderator, and Mr. Sabin scribe. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Rice; Recognition and Consecrating Prayer by Mr. Perkins; Fellowship of the Churches by Mr. Burnham; Concluding Prayer by Mr. Sabin.

The original members of the Church were sixty-seven, who were all members of the First Church, with one or two exceptions. They adopted the following **CONFESSIO**N OF FAITH, which, as it is brief, is given entire.

“ We believe there is one God, self-existent, eternal, perfectly holy; the Creator and rightful Disposer of all things, subsisting in a manner mysterious to us, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Bible is the revealed will of God to mankind, and was given by inspiration, as the only unerring rule of faith and practice.

We believe that mankind are fallen from their original rectitude, and are, while in a state of nature, wholly destitute of that holiness which is required by the divine law.

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, was made flesh, or in a mysterious manner, became man, and by his obedience, sufferings and death, made full satisfaction for the sins of the world, and opened a way by which



all who believe in him, with repentance for their sins, may be justified and saved, without an impeachment of the divine justice and truth.

We believe that they, and they only, will be saved, in consequence of the merits of Christ, who are born of the spirit, and united by a living faith to the Son of God.

We believe that God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world ; when there shall be a resurrection of the dead, and when all the righteous will enter on eternal happiness, and all the wicked will be condemned to eternal misery ”

The Covenant adopted at the same time, is substantially, and almost literally, like that of the First Church, as found on page 314. At this meeting, the Church voted unanimously, the female members concurring, to invite Mr. Abijah P. Marvin, a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, and of the Yale Theological Seminary, who had been approbated to preach by the New London, Conn., Association, to settle with them in the Gospel Ministry. The Parish, which had already been legally constituted, united in this invitation, without a dissenting voice. The correspondence between the parties is omitted. The invitation was accepted, and the ordination services took place according to the following record.

#### THE ORDINATION.

The Council met on the 9th day of January, 1844, at the house of Dr. Alvah Godding, and was made up of ministers and delegates from the following Churches : Rindge, Rev. Mr. Burnham, Br. J. B. Breed ; South Royalston, Rev. S. H. Peckham, Br. D. W. Upham ; Templeton, Rev. Mr. Sabin, Br. Daniel Foster ; Athol, Rev. R. M. Chipman, Dea. Samuel Clapp ; Gardner, Rev. W. B. Stone, Br. R. G. Cowee ; Ashburnham, Rev. E. Jennison, Br. O. G. Caldwell ; Royalston, Dea. E. Pierce ; Winchendon, Br. Henry Greenwood. Rev. B. Rice, of Winchendon, and Rev. Edward R. Tyler, (editor of the *New Englander*) of New Haven, being present, by verbal invitation of the Church and pastor elect, were invited to sit with the Council. Mr. Burnham was moderator, and Mr. Jennison, scribe. The examination of the candidate took place in the afternoon and evening.

The next forenoon, which was a bright and pleasant winter day, the new meeting-house was dedicated to the worship of the triune God. The Rev. Richard M. Chipman offered the Introductory Prayer ; the

Sermon was by the pastor elect, and the Prayer of Dedication was by the Rev. Samuel H. Peckham, of South Royalston.

In the afternoon, the Ordination services took place in presence of a crowded assemblage. The Rev. Benjamin Rice, then ministering to the First Church, read the Scriptures, and made the Introductory Prayer; the Sermon was by Mr. Tyler, of New Haven; the Ordaining Prayer was offered by Mr. Jennison; Rev. Mr. (now Dr.) Burnham, gave the Charge to the Pastor; the Right Hand of Fellowship was by Rev. (now Dr.) Sabin; the Address to the people was by Mr. Chipman, and Mr. Stone closed the exercises with prayer. The singing, under the direction of Mr. Osgood Colleston, was excellent, and all the services were well received by the large audience.\* The minister was settled on a salary of \$500 per annum, which was about the average of salaries in the neighboring parishes.

Though the projectors of this new enterprise had misgivings about their ability to sustain public worship, and doubts whether a congregation, respectable in number, could be collected; and though they had but scanty encouragement from others, yet the house was immediately filled up, and from that time, there has been no lack of pecuniary means necessary to pay all the expenses of the parish. The congregation became, and remained the largest in town since the flourishing days of the First Church.

The day succeeding the ordination, the pews were offered for sale, and nearly money enough was raised to pay for the meeting-house.

Brothers Reuben Hyde and Ebenezer Butler, were chosen to the office of Deacon.

In the year 1844, sixteen persons were received into the Church by letter, making the whole number eighty-three. Seven were received in 1845, four in 1846, three in 1847. In the next year, there were fifteen additions, eleven or twelve of which were by profession. From that date there have been admissions by profession, every year, except 1852.

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\* The following is taken from the Boston Recorder, January 25, 1844: "The day was beautiful for a wintry day—the house crowded to overflowing, the services solemn and appropriate, the music excellent, and the appearance of the audience furnished ample evidence that a good impression was produced. This new church, having but just been organized, with their new meeting-house located in a flourishing village, and their young pastor in the freshness of ministerial life, commences its career by the brightest prospects of usefulness and success."

## ENLARGED HOUSE, AND BELL.

In 1855, there was a need felt for more room, and money enough was subscribed for enlarging the house of worship. The east end of the house was removed, and an addition built on large enough to admit twenty-four new pews. The gallery was enlarged by adding the front row of seats. In this way the capacity of the house was increased about one half; that is, before the enlargement, the house would accommodate only about two-thirds as many as afterwards. There are eighty-six pews on the floor of the house, which will hold five or six persons, according to their size; and the gallery will accommodate about fifty. At the same time, the eastern half of the basement, which is entirely above-ground, was finished off into a Lecture room, two Parlors, a Dressing room, and large entry, for religious and social uses. The whole cost of these improvements was about \$2,000. The entire length of the house, outside, is 84 feet. The audience room is about 70 by 42 feet. Dea. E. Butler, Mr. C. R. Whitman and Capt. C. W. Bigelow had charge of the work.

The first bell was purchased by subscription, and was hung in the year 1848. It weighed 1640 pounds, and cost nearly \$600. It was from the Meneely foundry, and was one of their sweetest toned bells. This was broken, and in 1864, was replaced by another, which did not give satisfaction. This was returned, according to agreement, and the present bell obtained, in that year, at an expense of about \$300.00 in addition to the old bell metal. Its weight is 1818 pounds.

There were additions to the Church, from year to year, amounting in all, during the pastorate of the first minister, to one hundred and thirty-two. Of these, about ninety joined by confessing Christ, all of whom were added in the eighteen last years of the period. The utmost harmony prevailed during these years of rise and progress. Only a single instance of discipline—involving three persons—occurred, and in that case the conclusion reached was unanimous. No member who first united with this Church, by confessing Christ, has been a subject of discipline. The utmost care has been taken in the examination of candidates.

Mr. Marvin asked a dismissal on the 20th of July, 1865. The Church and Parish voted instead, to give him leave of absence for a year. Near the close of the year, (July 22, 1866,) he renewed the request,

and the Church united with him in calling a Council, by whom the dissolution of their relation as pastor and people, was effected, on the 22d day of August, 1866.

A Sabbath School was organized soon after the commencement of public worship, in 1844, and has been in a flourishing condition to the present time. The Superintendents have been Deacons Hyde and Butler, and Messrs. Maynard Partridge, Harvey Wyman, Grover S. Whitney, and Orlando Mason ; the latter having served many years. The library contains a good collection of books, numbering several hundred volumes, some of them of permanent value. The Sabbath School, for several years, has numbered about one hundred and eighty.

The salary of the minister was \$500 for several years. For a year or two it was \$550 ; and then \$600. In 1856 it was raised to \$800, and so remained till 1866, except that in 1862, Mr. Marvin gave up 10 per cent., or \$80, on account of the " hard times." On the settlement of Mr. Austin Dodge, who was ordained and installed on the 9th of October, 1866, it was raised to \$1200. He continued as pastor about one year, when he was dismissed by a mutual Council. The Church passed highly complimentary resolutions in his favor. The Rev. Davis Foster is now supplying the pulpit on an engagement for a year, with a salary of \$1500.

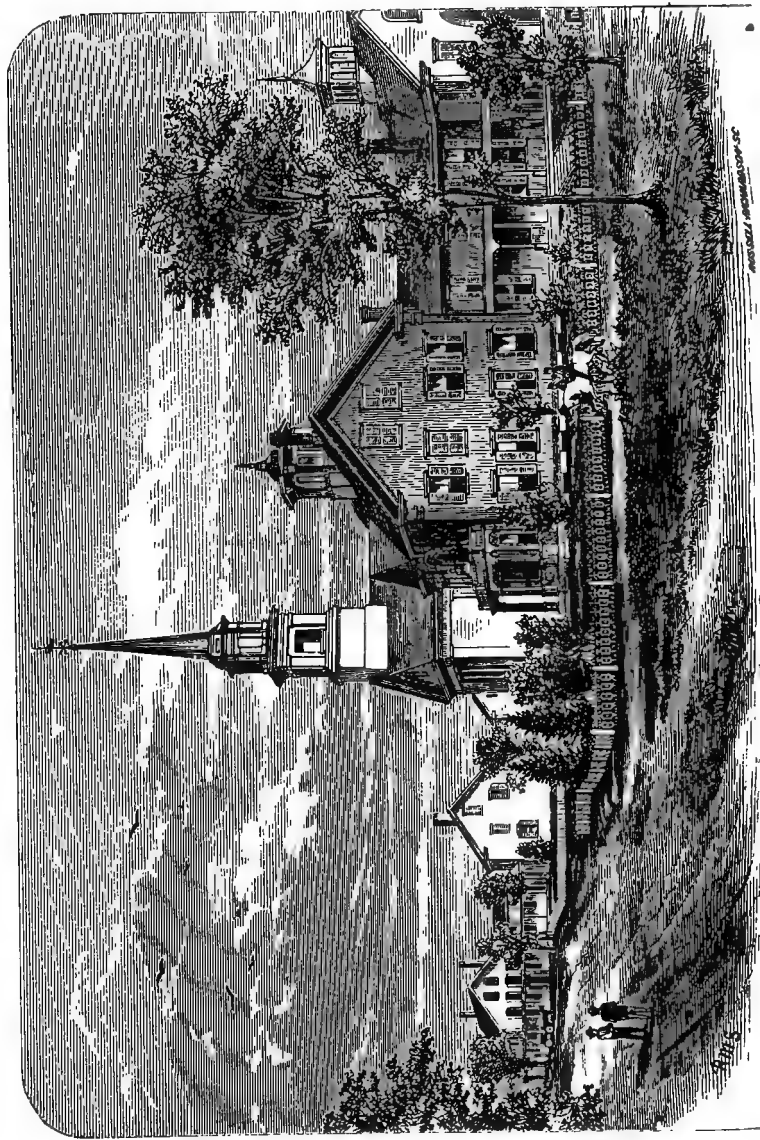
The Church took early measures for raising money in aid of the great benevolent objects of the day. Besides private benefactions to those in want, without distinction of class or denomination, to aid whom the members have ever been prompt, a regular collection has been taken at every season of communion, for the benefit of members of the Church in needy circumstances. The contributions for other benevolent objects for several years, amounted to about \$300 per annum ; averaging rather more than that sum. In 1860, the sum was \$467 ; in 1861, about \$470 ; in 1862, \$321 ; in 1863, \$495 ; in 1864, \$663 ; in 1865, about \$720. The average for the two succeeding years was about the sum last named. The whole amount is more than \$10,000.

#### 5. BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE.

This Church was organized in the year 1848, on the 27th of April. It was composed of members of the Church in New Boston, and others living in and near the Village, who belonged to churches in other towns. The original number was thirty. The Rev. Andrew Dunn, who had

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# Baptist Church.

S. & W. TUCKER.

M. RAYMOND.

O. MASON.

ministered for several years to the church in New Boston, was the first pastor. In co-operation with Mr. Seth Tucker, Jr., and others, he was active in starting the enterprise. The fact that the Congregational and Methodist Churches were well filled on the Sabbath, and that the population of the Village was steadily increasing, seemed to warrant the undertaking, and the success which has followed, fully vindicates the wisdom of those engaged in it. Measures were immediately taken to erect a house of worship. The members of the church, and their friends in the congregation, subscribed liberally. Others who thought the establishment of a new religious society, would be conducive to the improvement of society in the place, rendered assistance. A neat and commodious sanctuary was erected, and was dedicated to the Triune God, on the 17th day of January, 1849. The Sermon on the occasion was preached by the Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church in Boston. Other parts in the exercises were borne by Rev. Messrs. Tracy, Bowers and Dunn. The services were deeply interesting to a large audience.

From this time onward the Church has received additions from year to year, by a regular, steady growth. At the end of the first year, the Church consisted of thirty-eight members. There had been "no special revival, but some were rejoicing in hope." The first Deacons were Joseph White and John L. Reed. Mr. O. Colleston was the first Clerk. He was also the leader of the choir, and the singing was conducted with great spirit. Much interest was manifested in the Sabbath School, which was attended by nearly all the children of the congregation, and by all the members of the Church who could be present. During the second year, the Church is reported to have "enjoyed a precious and extensive revival." Much of the interest in this awakening was felt among those who resided in Spring Village. Mr. Goodale, a young man who was preparing for the Missionary work, but who died in the course of this year, was very active in rendering assistance to the pastor. Twenty-seven persons were received by baptism, and seven by letter, during the year ending September, 1850. Three had been dismissed, leaving the whole number sixty-nine. In the next year two were added by baptism, and eleven by letter; so that, after deducting a few dismissals and exclusions, the Church contained eighty members. The society was united and prosperous during the following year.

The year closing September, 1853, seems to have been a season of depression. The Church was without a pastor, the Rev. Mr. Dunn having removed to another place. Preaching was sustained but part of the time. Seventeen were dismissed to other Churches, and others left town. In addition, the furious tornado which rushed over the Village, August 27, 1853, broke off the spire, and otherwise injured the sanctuary. The Rev. A. Baldwin became pastor in the year 1854, and continued in that relation about three years. He was a faithful minister, and the Church recovered somewhat from its depression. In 1856, four "young ladies in the Sabbath School were hopefully converted." After the departure of Mr. Baldwin, in 1857, the Church was reported to the Wachusett Baptist Association, as "in a low and dying condition." There were but "nineteen male members, and of these nine did not live in town."

The report of the next year was more favorable. Rev. Lester Williams though not a settled pastor, was efficient in his ministrations. There were some cases of conversion, and there was an increasing interest in the Sabbath School. The Church now numbered sixty-nine. Mr. Williams was succeeded in the course of the next year, by Rev. W. W. Ashley. In the report from the Church printed in the Minutes of the Wachusett Association for 1860, we find the following: "*Winchendon*.—This body report themselves a united Church, a hopeful Church, a strong Church, a growing Church, and are thankful to God for his benefits." Four were added by baptism, and the whole number was sixty-nine. Mr. Ashley left in April, 1861, and the Church had preaching by different ministers for several months. In the summer of this year, Mr. George A. Litchfield entered upon the work of the ministry here, and his labors were attended with success. At the time of the annual report in September, 1862, it was stated that a "deep sense of the divine presence pervaded the Church," and with "scarcely an exception, all seemed ready to come up to the help of the Lord." Twenty-two were added to the Church by baptism, and the number rose to eighty-seven. The Sabbath School was flourishing. The report for the next year dated September, 1863, says: "We are a united Church, united in our pastor, free from debt, and praying for the conversion of sinners." There was considerable religious interest during the winter, though no known conversions. One member of the Church and Sabbath School had died



in the service of his country. The number of members of the Church reported in 1864, was one hundred and four. The house of worship was usually well filled on the Sabbath, and the Sabbath School was larger than usual. The Church enjoyed outward and spiritual prosperity. During the year 1864-5, there were indications at times that the Lord was coming to bless in copious measure, and although anticipations were not realized, yet some souls were "rescued from the downward road, and the religious condition of the Church was permanently improved." The young people's prayer meeting had its origin at this time, and since then has been well sustained. Mr. Litchfield's pastoral labors terminated in the autumn of 1865, the state of his health inducing him to change his occupation, though he has frequently preached on the Sabbath in various places. His pastorate was filled with labor, and was attended with success. In 1865, the Church had one hundred and eleven members.

Since that time the Church has had no pastor or stated supply, but has enjoyed the services of a large number of ministers. In the fall of 1866, the Church was refreshed with a precious revival, commencing with the young, and resulting in the conversion of many children, youth, and persons of middle age. The work seemed to be under the immediate direction of the Holy Spirit, and went steadily forward without any regular pastoral labor. It was noticed that whoever preached—and there was a new minister almost as often as the Sabbath came—the Spirit appeared to speak as if he had been specially directed what message to bring to the waiting congregation. The members of the Church were generally active. The number of admissions by baptism as the fruits of this work, was thirty-eight. The congregation has since been favored with the services of a number of ministers, but has not succeeded in securing one as a permanent pastor. In 1867, the house was repaired, at considerable expense, internally, and the spire, blown over by the gale in 1853, was rebuilt. The congregation has increased with the steady growth of the Village. The following have been chosen deacons, viz: Otis Chamberlain and Windsor N. White.

#### 6. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Soon after the opening of the Cheshire Railroad, in 1848, the incoming of families of Irish parentage, created a need for the ministrations

of the Catholic priesthood. Meetings were held occasionally, by the priest from Fitchburg, or elsewhere, until the year 185—, when a building erected for another purpose, was fitted up for a Church, on the north side of the Village, some fifty rods north of the Railroad Station, where religious services have been maintained, at stated times, ever since.

#### 7. THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY.

The town hall was occupied by those holding Unitarian sentiments, in the year 1851. The "Third Congregational Society" was organized, January 17, 1852. Various gentlemen preached for them in succession, whose names cannot be recalled, with the exception of Rev. Mr. McIntire, of Fitchburg, and Rev. Mr. I. Putnam, a young man of great promise, who died soon after.

On the 19th of January, 1852, Rev. T. H. Dorr was duly installed. The Sermon was by Rev. Calvin Lincoln, of Fitchburg; Installing Prayer, Rev. John S. Brown, Fitzwilliam; Right Hand, Rev. Wm. P. Tilden; Address to the people, Rev. Dr. A. Hill. Other members of the Council were Revs. E. G. Adams, H. O. White, C. Wellington, H. Stebbins, A. Young, D. D., F. D. Huntington, J. D. Bridge, Samuel Pettis, and S. F. Clark. Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Tucker presented a "costly and valuable Bible." After about a year's service, the engagement with Mr. Dorr was dissolved by mutual consent. After his departure, different ministers, including Rev. Mr. Hicks, supplied for two or three years, when Rev. Benjamin Huntoon was invited. He was here some two years, 1856–8. He was much esteemed by the public generally.

There was an intermission of services for several years, but in the winter of 1864–5, a society was formed, styled the Third Congregational Society. The Rev. Charles H. Wheeler was engaged to preach, in the month of September, 1865, and has continued to the present time. A building committee was chosen, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz: I. M. Murdock, B. D. Whitney, Wm. W. Whitney, Sidney Fairbanks, John Folsom and George Goodspeed, under whose direction a church was erected in the years 1866–7, which was dedicated on the 13th day of November, 1867. The Prayer of Dedication was offered by Rev. Mr. Wheeler; the Sermon by Rev. Dr. Bartol, of Boston, and an address was delivered by Rev. E. E. Hale, of Boston.





This house, styled "Church of the Unity," is a fine specimen of architecture, unsurpassed in elegance by any edifice of the kind, between Boston and Berkshire. It is an ornament to the place, and will remain a "thing of beauty" for generations. It is built of Fitzwilliam granite, and is 45 by 95 feet in dimensions. The spire rises one hundred and thirteen feet from the base. The whole cost, including the organ, was about \$14,000. Since the church was opened for worship, there has been a good attendance, and the Sabbath School is flourishing.

In former times, there was Universalist preaching in the town. About the year 1840, Rev. Mr. Clark, then of Jaffrey, and others, held meetings, either statedly or occasionally, in the Village school-house. Afterwards, similar meetings were held in the Waterville school-house, in the afternoon or evening of the Sabbath. But no meeting of the kind has been held in the town for several years; the larger part of those who used to be present at them, now attending at the Church of the Unity.

Spiritualism and kindred notions never had much prevalence in the town.

#### 8. SCHOOL-HOUSE MEETINGS.

The ministers have been in the habit of holding meetings in the various school-houses, from time to time, but the only stated meetings of this kind have been in Spring Village and Waterville.

Mr. John D. Dunbar, and the Messrs. White have always favored the holding of meetings on Sabbath evenings in the school-house, which belongs to the corporation. Sometimes the pastors of the Churches have made it in their way to preach in the school-house; and at other times, ministers have been employed for a season. Rev. Leonard Tracy spent several months there ministering to the people of this neighborhood, when recruiting from the toils of a long pastorate. Rev. Mr. Mitchell was at the Springs one or two years; young Mr. Goodale held meetings for some months, and Mr. Martin, a Methodist minister, was stationed there for a year. The names of others cannot be recalled; but the good effected by these faithful men will abide forever. At present, the Young Men's Christian Association are holding meetings on Sabbath evenings.

About twenty years since, a company of ladies formed a plan of hav-

ing preaching in the Waterville school-house on the evening of the Sabbath. They invited the Congregational, Baptist and Methodist clergymen to preach in rotation. The ministers were glad of the opportunity, and from that time have labored in entire harmony. The results have been good in many ways, not only in promoting the interests of religion, but in showing how brethren can work together in unity. A gradual, but very perceptible change, has been effected in this village. Probably as large a proportion of the people attend meeting, as in any other part of the town. The same is true of the attendance of the children in the various Sabbath schools.

In closing these brief notices of the Churches, the author takes occasion to express his earnest wishes for their continued and ever-increasing influence. And he will not be censured if a peculiar love for the Church to which he formerly ministered prompts him to refer to it in the language of a familiar hymn :

“If e’er my heart forgets  
Her welfare or her woe,  
Let every joy this heart forsake,  
And every grief o’erflow.”

#### PAST AND PRESENT.

There has never been a year since the first meeting-house was erected, when the population of this town were more amply provided with conveniences for worship than at the present time. There are sittings for at least three-quarters of the inhabitants, including the aged, the sick, and those in early childhood. The great majority are connected with some religious society, and at times are found in the place of worship. The average attendance is good, and though not so large as in early times, yet the state of religion and morals is probably quite as good. When people rarely met each other on week-days, they felt a strong social impulse to gather in the meeting-house on Sunday. This accounts, in part, for the better attendance in old times. But it is the firm conviction of the author, after much inquiry, that there was a greater amount of disbelief in the Scriptures, a lower state of morals, and a weaker sense of divine and unseen realities, among the people of this town, sixty, seventy and eighty years ago, than in this year of grace, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

## CHAPTER XXIII.—A BILL OF MORTALITY.

“Leaves have their time to fall,  
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,  
And stars to set—but all,  
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O death!”

MRS. HEMANS.

“An old, old man with beard as white as snow.”

SPENSER.

Winchendon is a healthy township. The air of some localities in the Commonwealth may be more salubrious, and the rate of mortality less, than in this town, but the duration of life here is above the average of the towns and cities throughout the State. It is believed to be quite equal to that of the towns, excluding the cities. The location is high, being more than a thousand feet above tide-water. The air is pure. The water is generally soft and sweet. In a portion of the Village, it is hard and swampy, with traces of iron, but there is an abundance of fine spring water, in the near vicinity, with which a large population could be supplied, in every part of their dwellings.

In the early years of settlement, when the people were exposed to great hardships, they suffered much from colds and rheumatic complaints. At times, malignant fevers have cut down their victims suddenly, though there is no record or tradition of the prevalence of fatal typhus or typhoid fevers, such as have carried mourning into many families in some country towns.

The first season of more than common mortality in this town, was in the summer of 1775. Nathan Day died of dysentery, in camp at Charlestown. This disease, called at the time, “fever and flux,” and “camp distemper,” prevailed in many places. The sickness in this town was severe, and “in a considerable number of cases, terminated fatally.” It affected aged people, and children, especially the latter, many of whom died. In 1786, during the warm season of the year,

the dysentery prevailed again, and twenty-eight persons died. The canker rash or throat distemper, as it was often called, carried off many children in the west part of the town, in 1795.

In 1810-11, there was a fearful malady among the children. From May 29, 1810, to December 30, forty-five children fell victims, nearly all of whom died of the same disease. In the Church records kept by Mr. Pillsbury, "Quinsy," or "Canker," is written against their names. It is thought by aged persons, who remember this sickness, that it was the same form as that now known by the name of "diphtheria." Between February 17, 1811, and December 10, of the same year, fourteen children died, mostly of the same complaint, making fifty-nine deaths of children in about twenty months. Some families lost all their children. In August, 1810, seven died; in September, twelve; in October, fourteen. The sickness prevailed in different parts of the town, but raged with special virulence in the south part, extending from Capt. Whitcomb's, on the south-east, to Mr. Thos. Wyman's, on the west, nearly four miles. The former lost two, and the latter four children. Capt. Stoddard lost three; Mr. Gideon Balcom, three; Mr. James McElwain, three. The seventh district lost more than half of the children within its limits. In other districts, Lieut. Isaac Morse lost two; Mr. Hapgood, four; Mr. Seth Tucker, Sen., two, and Mr. Jacob Hale, two. There has been no year since when so many children have died, although the population has been more than doubled. Nor has there been a year when so large a proportion of persons of all ages have died; not even during the late war. Indeed there has been no prevailing sickness since, unless perhaps in one year. In 1849 there were eight cases of death by scarlet fever. Some of the children were very bright and promising. In 1863, there were thirty deaths of children, making this an exceptional year; but these deaths were caused by various diseases, as "diphtheria," "scarlet fever," "canker rash," &c., as they are styled in the Register. Many of these children were of foreign parentage.

It may be stated on the authority of Rev. Dr. Whiton, that in 1810-11, there were between one and two hundred cases of "spotted fever." There was alarm at first, but only two or three cases proved fatal.

Occasionally there has been an unusual degree of mortality among aged persons. At the close of a long, cold, hard winter, it has been



noticed more than once, that old people have suddenly drooped at the coming on of warm weather, and have been gathered to their fathers. In some years there has been an uncommon number of deaths by consumption; but in general, lung complaints have not been more numerous here in proportion to the population, than in the healthy portions of the Commonwealth. It is sometimes said that the low lands near the river are liable to fevers, from fogs and other causes, but as a matter of fact, there has never been what might be called a "sickly time" from fevers, while other towns in the vicinity have, at times, suffered severely from this form of disease.

Many people have lived to a good old age. It is known that many of the early settlers passed far beyond the scriptural term of "three score and ten," but the registers and records do not, in many cases, give their age at their decease.

The following is a list of those who have died since the beginning of 1820,—excepting a few years—who survived to their 80th year. The number between 60 and 80 would take more space than could well be spared. The following names are given in the order of time, without designating each year.

|                       |      |                       |    |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|----|
| Mrs. Beulah Prentice, | 81   | Ephraim Murdock,      | 81 |
| Daniel Goodridge,     | 83   | William Robbins,      | 88 |
| Reuben Vose,          | 81   | Anna Parker,          | 88 |
| Abigail Bemis,        | 88   | Mrs. Eben Richardson, | 84 |
| Benjamin Kidder,      | 87   | Dea. Amos Heywood,    | 84 |
| Miss Mitchell,        | 89   | John Bemis,           | 87 |
| Edward Stone,         | 84   | Jane Poor,            | 93 |
| Jacob Hale,           | 87   | Sally Goodridge,      | 81 |
| Jonathan Pollard,     | 91   | Tabitha Eddy,         | 96 |
| Sally Stimpson,       | 86   | Stephen Emery,        | 98 |
| David Poor,           | 79   | Abigail Wilson,       | 83 |
| Widow I. Bennett,     | 79   | Hannah Perry,         | 86 |
| Lydia Darling,        | 80   | Mary Sargent,         | 86 |
| Lucy Wilson,          | 86   | Isaac Taylor,         | 84 |
| Asa Maynard,          | 81   | Betsey Poland,        | 87 |
| Sarah Brooks,         | 89   | Martha Butler,        | 79 |
| Jonas Bradish,        | 85 - | John Estey,           | 86 |
| Simeon Tuttle,        | 87   | Jacob Parks,          | 87 |
| Huldah Streeter,      | 81   | Sarah Kimball,        | 92 |
| Daniel Day,           | 88   | Joanna Goodridge,     | 82 |
| Elizabeth Rugg,       | 81   | Asa Hale,             | 84 |
| Jonathan Patch,       | 83   | Elisha Gregory,       | 82 |
| Zeruiah Adams,        | 82   | Lucy Sherwin,         | 91 |

|                  |    |                  |    |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Chloe Maynard,   | 84 | Tisdale Howard,  | 85 |
| Phineas Ball,    | 90 | Ruth Godding,    | 86 |
| Jacob Scott,     | 86 | Noah Holman,     | 82 |
| Eunice Robbins,  | 85 | Abigail Edmonds, | 89 |
| Seth Tucker,     | 98 | Timothy Godding, | 93 |
| Betsey May,      | 81 | Sally Stimpson,  | 86 |
| Mary Fletcher,   | 90 | Huldah Brown,    | 83 |
| Hannah Parks,    | 83 | Rebecca Graton,  | 91 |
| Phineas Parks,   | 88 | Polly Cutter,    | 92 |
| Abiel Alger,     | 87 | James McElwain,  | 80 |
| Asa Hyde,        | 81 | William Tolman,  | 82 |
| Parnel Fry,      | 86 | Daniel Bowker,   | 81 |
| Ruth Stuart,     | 80 | Daniel Hale,     | 79 |
| Abigail Raymond, | 81 | Lucy Pitkin,     | 79 |
| Lucy Whitney,    | 82 | Phineas Ross,    | 79 |
| William Brooks,  | 80 | Rebecca Farrar,  | 79 |
| Martha Brown,    | 86 | Martha Battles,  | 86 |
| John Weston,     | 86 | Persis Bowker,   | 85 |
| Sukey Fairbanks, | 79 | Abigail Brown,   | 81 |
| Simon Pierce,    | 81 | Sally Bowker,    | 86 |
| Sylvan Harris,   | 87 | Rachel Steel,    | 79 |
| William McGrath, | 85 | Richard Condon,  | 88 |

In 1849, Mr. Hyde gave the names of eighteen persons then living, who were eighty and upwards. The following list of aged persons living in the town in the opening of the year 1868, may properly be appended here. The exact age of two or three cannot be given, and it is possible that they are not quite eighty.

|                 |    |                  |          |
|-----------------|----|------------------|----------|
| Betsey Holman,  | 91 | Daniel Day,      | 81       |
| Jacob Woodbury, | 85 | Olive Wyman,     | 79       |
| Jonathan Wyman, | 85 | Eunice Woodbury, | 79       |
| John Raymond,   | 83 | Mr. Daniels,     | 80       |
| John Woodbury,  | 83 | Eunice Brown,    | 83       |
| Reuben Vose,    | 83 | Esther Kilburn,  | 80       |
| Moses M. Reed,  | 83 | Prudence Priest, | 80       |
| Margaret Hale,  | 82 | Obadiah Walker,  | 79       |
| Betsey Smith,   | 82 | Henry Mason,     | 83       |
| Katharine Day,  | 82 | Joseph Stone,    | about 80 |

## CHAPTER XXIV.—BUSINESS OF WINCHENDON.

"How blest the farmer's simple life!

How pure the joy it yields!

Far from the world's tempestuous strife,

Free, 'mid the scented fields!

REV. C. W. EVEREST.

"The smith, a mighty man is he."

LONGFELLOW.

"With a buzz and a hum swift rolls the wheel,

In go wool, cotton, wood, iron and steel,

Out come the nice cloth, barrows, hoops and sleds,

Fig boxes, lemon squeezers, faucets and beds,

Pails, tubs, churns, buckets, the sewing machine,

And strawberry baskets fit for a queen."

MACHINE POESIS.

The history of business in the town cannot be made complete, because the information needed was lost when the Assessors' books were burned. What can be gleaned from the Records, and from the memory of aged persons, in relation to the last century; and from various sources, in regard to the present century, will be arranged, so far as convenient, in chronological order.

### SECTION 1.—FARMING AND STOCK.

The chief business of the early settlers was farming. The best land in all parts of the town was soon taken up, and put under cultivation. Some had much more land than they could properly manage, but in time this was divided among children, or sold to new comers, till farms became more convenient in size. As long ago as 1790, about thirty-six years after the organization of the town, there were probably as many engaged in cultivating the land, and drawing their subsistence from it, as there are at the present day. Two-thirds of our present population live in the villages, and are employed otherwise than in agriculture.

The soil in old times was said to be good. The ordinary crops of

central New England were raised in this town. Late frosts sometimes cut down the new corn, beans and vines; and in some seasons, early frosts in autumn, injured the unripened fruits of the earth. But in general the farmer was well rewarded for his labor. Pastures and grass lands have always yielded well, as the soil is naturally moist except on the sand plains. With good cultivation, the lands have borne well to every successive generation of farmers. During the last quarter of a century, there has been a decided improvement in different parts of the town; especially near the Village. The aspect of the land is more pleasant, as stumps, rocks and hummocks have been removed.

In former times, cattle and horses were pastured and fed here in considerable numbers. Neat stock were sent here in the spring, and driven away in the fall, to market. Horses were taken up from below, as cold weather came on, and were fed, during the winter, on the superabundant hay. Thus the hay was sold at a good profit, manure was saved for the land, and the farmer was paid for his trouble. Some of the inhabitants, as William Whitney, and Phinehas, his son, besides this business, dealt largely in cattle and horses, at times, with profit. Besides, thousands of cattle, sheep and swine, used to be driven through the town, on the way to market, and quite a revenue was obtained from feeding them while on the way.

#### SECTION 2.—THE FIRST MILLS.

The first reference to a mill in the Proprietors' Records, is under date of 1738. It was voted "that twenty shillings on each original right be raised for the encouragement of such persons as shall build a saw-mill." Nothing was done. In 1742, March 14, the following action was had. "Voted, that Col. Thomas Berry, Messrs. William Brown and Samuel Dodge be a committee to build a saw-mill in the most convenient place, and for the best advantage to the Proprietors, taking the best advice therefor." It is said, on good authority, that the mill was built where the Carter mill now stands, but it was not put in operation for several years. The above committee were "directed and empowered to treat and agree with Joseph Priest, or his son, or some other blacksmith, to do the Proprietors' blacksmith's work in the Township in the best way and manner they can for the advantage of the Proprietors." Priest had been induced by a grant of land by government, to build a house of entertainment, on the road from

Keene to Lunenburg, just over the Royalston line, west from Mr. George Gregory's. There is an old tradition that an attack was made on this "half-way house," in 1747, by Indians. An aged woman said so to somebody, but no authentic information of anything so warlike in this neighborhood, can be found.

In 1756, March 10, the saw-mill was accepted. This was eighteen years after the first vote in relation to a saw-mill, and fourteen years after it is supposed to have been built; but only three or four years after the actual and permanent settlement of the place. Two years later, November 30, 1758, we have the first notice of an effort to build a grist, or corn-mill, in the township. The Proprietors voted that they would "act on the affair to build a grist-mill." And they farther voted, that "for encouragement, two dollars be granted on each original right, to any person or persons, that shall undertake and build a grist-mill in said Township, and keep said mill in repair, and grind for the inhabitants for lawful toll, for the term of ten years; and that the money shall be paid as soon as the mill is fit to grind. Also, 100 acres of land, with the stream, be given by said Proprietors, for further encouragement to the person or persons, that shall undertake and build said mill." The mill was built before 1762, by Bartholomew Parsons, or Pearson, because in that year we find it recorded that a bridge was built "over the river by Mr. Parsons' mill-place." This mill stood near the shop of Messrs. Loud. A saw-mill was added, as the wants of the neighborhood required, and both were continued, though in successive buildings, until recently. The last building, which covered both sets of machinery, is now the west end of Goodspeed & Wyman's long shop. Among the proprietors of this mill, or more correctly, mill-site, were Bartholomew and Richard Parsons, Mr Cambridge, Mr. Mason, Benjamin Hall, Gamaliel Beaman, Miles Putnam, Amos Goodhue, Phinehas Whitney, and Amasa Whitney, the Winchendon Manufacturing Company and the present owners.

Many kinds of business have been pursued in connection with this water power. Messrs. Phinehas & Amasa Whitney had an oil mill in operation several years, where the Messrs. Loud now make faucets. Flaxseed was pressed for the oil, and the residue was made into oil cake and fed to cattle. This business was given up in 1828.

In 1793, there was a clothier in town, named Cambridge. His mill was not far from the dam. The fulling mill was burned in 1818. Mr.

Silas Coffin run the mill from 1812 to 1816. It was rebuilt and spinning machinery was put in. The weaving was done in families. The building was burned in 1825. A new factory was erected, and machinery for weaving was added. During these years the business was carried on by Mr. Amasa Whitney. It then—about 1837—passed into the possession of the Winchendon Manufacturing Co. Mr. George Coffin and Messrs. Coffin & Vose, and Mr. Denny, of Barre, and again Mr. Coffin carried it on successively as a woollen factory. The Seamless Garment Company rented the building in 1856 and a year or two thereafter. It was burned in the year 1859.

In 1793, there were two or three Potash works in the town. One was a little east of the house of Esq. Rice; half way down the hill-side, by the road. Another was on the Asa Perley place.

It is not certainly known what mill was set up next, in the order of time; but the Cook mill was among the first. This was just south-west of the bridge this side of Burrageville, and near the present road to Ashburnham. The old logs which always are to be found near old dams and saw-mills, are still embedded in the sand. This mill was in existence as early as the year 1793, when, according to Whitney's History of the county, there were six saw-mills and two grist-mills in this town. There was a run of stones in the Cook mill, for the convenience of the neighborhood. The way to the mill was by a cart-path, running north from the old Ashburnham road to the river. This path or mill-road started near the house of Mr. John Cook. The mill was abandoned not far from the year 1818.

Coming down the stream about one-third of a mile, we find the site of the old Stimson mill, not far east from the bridge on the road that leads north from the Estey, or No. 5 school-house, to the Baldwin place. It belonged to Jonathan Stimson, who lived near; afterwards it was the property of Roger Bigelow, and then of Nathan Knight. It was an old mill as long ago as 1800, and was given up about that time.

The Butler mill, so called, was started about 1795, by Jonas Marshall. It was in the hands of Rufus Wilder about fourteen years, from 1806 to 1820, at which last date it fell again into the possession of Mr. Marshall. It was then sold to Cyrus Pierce, who put in a grist-mill. In 1826, the property was bought by Messrs. Joel and Ebenezer Butler, father and son. In 1864, Messrs. Wyman, Rice & Bigelow be-

came the proprietors; then Messrs. Rice & Wyman, who sold out in July of the present year to Mr. George S. Coffin. It has been much improved of late. The mill-stones have been taken out, and all the space is employed in working up timber for various uses. It is now to be used as a woolen mill.

Going now to the north branch of the river, we find that in 1805 there was a small house over the spring which gives the name to Spring Village, but there was no dwelling-house. Jacob Whitney, father of Elias Whitney the surveyor, owned the land. He lived north-east of the John Crosby place, more than half a mile from the spring. Some years later, Capt. Israel Wood started a saw-mill, where the cotton factory now stands. In 1826, a woolen factory was set up by Silvenus Holbrook, and managed by Rob't Follett. Then came Philip Ridgway. William and John D. Dunbar began the cotton business in 1831. The establishment took the name of the Nelson mills in 1843, when Messrs. Henry Upham and others, including Dea. Joseph and Mr. Nelson D. White, became proprietors. From that time to the present, the latter gentleman has had charge of the business, of which he has been the principal owner since 1845. The first factory was built of wood. This was burned in May, 1854. The next year, the present building was erected. It is of brick, of the modern style of architecture, with tower and bell, and with neat surroundings. During the present year, 1868, the building is receiving large additions, giving it a capacity of 7000 spindles.

Following down the stream, we come to the Caswell, or Bigelow mill, which was run by David Caswell; then by Capt. Charles W. Bigelow, and is now the property of Murdock & Co.

Farther down stream, and about one mile and a half north-east from the Village, is the Murdock mill. A dam and mill were built here in 1827. It was in the hands of Joseph Adams from 1829 to 1836. He was killed by an accident in 1836, soon after parting with the property.

Since the year 1836, it has been the property of Capt. Ephraim Murdock, Jr., and Murdock & Co. Mr. Murdock became the owner in that year, and Major Sidney Fairbanks was taken into partnership in 1849. By removing the dam at the Caswell mill, and raising the dam of the lower mill, a head of water of more than thirty feet can be obtained. This would be a power probably unsurpassed in the county.

The Woodbury mill was on the new county road to Gardner. The

stream is small, and the mill was run only a part of the year. The first mill was built in the year 178—, by Isaac Woodbury. The second, by his brother, Col. J. B. Woodbury. Nehemiah, son of the latter, built it the third time. It was run by Capt. Levi Priest, a brother-in-law of the latter, during the last years of its existence, being at the time the property of Mr. John Woodbury.

About the beginning of the century, and some years later, there was a tannery behind the spot on which the Bank now stands. A Mr. Burr was the proprietor; afterwards it was owned and improved by Esq. Morse. His currier's shop was where Mr. William W. Whitney now lives. The frame of the shop was newly covered, and so made into the house, by additions. In 1817, Mr. Morse built a small dam part way across the river, and put up a tannery where the tan-works now stand. Previously he had ground the bark in a horse mill. This establishment grew by degrees, during his day. After his decease, in 1850, it was purchased by Messrs. Nelson & Rice, of Shrewsbury. Mr. George Brown became a joint proprietor and resident manager at this time. At his death in 1866, Mr. Jonas A. Stone took the same position. The business is extensive.

There was formerly a blacksmith shop opposite the house of Hon. Elisha Murdock, on the hill-side. It was owned by Esq. Murdock. He made sleighs in a shop which is now the residence of Mr. A. Whitney, Jr. The iron work for the sleighs was done in the blacksmith shop. This latter shop is now the property of Daniel and Salmon Scott, at the corner of Front and River streets.

In 1823, Esq. Murdock set up a small shop, 20 by 18 feet, close by the Morse dam, for cutting stuff for sleighs. In due time the dam was raised and extended across the river. The power was greatly increased, and in the course of years, put to more extensive use. Col. William Murdock built a machine and bobbin shop in 1831. This was half way from the dam to the tannery. Still later, Capt. Murdock put up a building between Col. M's and the dam. This was burned, and another was built. It was occupied by Mr. William Beaman, for a time, as a pail shop. Mr. M. T. Nash has manufactured various articles, by the help of this water power. The most recent water power in the Village is that of Mr. Baxter D. Whitney, at the railroad crossing. It was begun in 1846.

Going down-stream, half way to Waterville, we find another fine mill-





ISAAC MORSE, ESQ

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2

site. Here Capt. Levi Priest and Dea. Reuben Hyde put up a dam about 1825, but this was washed away. In 1850, Mr. Joseph A. Robbins and his brother Hervey, built anew, and secured a great power. A large shop was erected, in part of which is an excellent flouring-mill, with two run of stone. The main part of the building is used by Mr. William Beaman, in the manufacture of wooden ware. The establishment is now owned jointly by Mr. Beaman, and by Messrs. Beals & Bowker. The latter firm carry on the flour and grain business.

The first mill *below* Waterville was built about eighty years since, by Daniel Farrar, Sen., and a Mr. French. It was a saw and grist-mill, owned by Mr. Amasa Whitney when it was burned in 1810 or 12.

The first mill *in* Waterville was the Aldrich mill, so called, built not far from 1820. It is the lower, or third one in the centre of Waterville. It was built by William, or "uncle Bill" Robbins. His son Lewis afterwards was connected with the establishment. Then Richard Stuart, and still later, the Aldrich brothers, were proprietors. It is now in the possession of E. Murdock & Co., or Whitney & Whitman. The upper mill was first started by Lewis Robbins, about 1825. The first attempt to make pails, tubs, &c., by machinery, was by Tucker & Chessman, between 1820 and 1830, either at this or the lower mill. The staves were not sawed, but split with a froe. They were shaved by hand, with a curved shave.

Mr. Shailer next took the business, and he was succeeded by Lewis Robbins. Elisha Murdock bought the mill and water privilege in 1834. It was carried on by him successfully until 1860, when his son-in-law, William W. Whitney, entered into partnership. In 1862, a new arrangement was made, by which Mr. Murdock retired, and James Whitman became a partner. The business is still done under the title of E. Murdock & Co.

The mill privilege now belonging to Woodcock & Sawyer, was first improved about the year 1835, by Capt. George Alger and Moses Hancock.

The mill-site of Mr. O. Mason was first occupied by Mr. Polycrates, (commonly called Cratus) Parks. He made clothes-pins, &c. This was in 1832. In 1845, Mr. Ephraim Kendall bought the property and built a saw-mill and a pail-shop. In 1853, the firm became Kendall & Mason. In 1863, Mr. Mason became the sole proprietor.

Some thirty-five years since, Moses Foskett took the water from the river, below the Aldrich mill, by a ditch across the fields almost to the corner of the old Royalston and the Waterville roads, near his house, thence across the road northerly twenty or thirty rods, where he had a saw-mill. This was given up in 1852.

In 1851, Warren and Alfred Hyde, sons of Ezra Hyde, Jr., the historian of the town, and grandson of the first Ezra, built the Hyde mill in Hydeville. The dam was swept away in 1852; then re-built; then in 1853, came into possession of the present Ezra Hyde. As the Foskett mill took the water from the river above this mill and returned it below, that was now abandoned. Various kinds of business have been carried on at the Hydeville shops, such as chair making, the making of fancy boxes, spring beds, mattresses, carts, sleds, and wheelbarrows for children, &c.

A mile farther down the stream was the Kilburn mill-site, now abandoned. This was used for cutting lumber.

Stuart's brook comes in from Fitzwilliam about a mile east from the northwest corner of the town. A dam was built by Joseph Robbins, in Robbinsville, about the beginning of this century. This has been in successive hands, and for many years past, has been a wooden ware establishment, as well as saw-mill. Reuben Harris came into possession in 1845; Percival Sherwin and George B. Raymond were the next owners. It is now the property of Harrison Aldrich & Co. The locality is sometimes called Harrisville.

Descending the stream to Bullardville, we come to the mill and bobbin shop of the Messrs. Parks. There have been at least five different sites for a dam near this place, and all below the present one. The first was built probably by Jeremiah Stuart, sometime after the Revolution, but the year cannot be ascertained. The dam on the spot now occupied, was put up in 1827, by Levi Parks and his brother Luke. It was subsequently owned by Charles Bullard, Calvin R. Whitman, Day & Parks, Whitman & [Edwin] Parks, and perhaps by others. Whitman, Parks, Day, and others, used it in making wooden ware. Messrs. Levi N., Martin H. and William Parks are now engaged in making an improved bobbin, (their own invention) in great quantity.

The east branch of Stuart's brook comes in from Rindge, a little more than a mile east from the west branch. Benjamin May has a saw-mill

near the State line. It was built by his father some eighty years since. Just below is the mill built in 1828, by William Robbins, called "uncle Bill." It is now the property of Nahum Robbins, his son.

Descending to Bullardville, we find the mill of Edward Loud, Jr. This was started by the above William Robbins, who was also the pioneer in settling Waterville. He began sometime between 1805 and 1810. Edward Loud, Sen., owned and run it many years. His son Edward has carried on the business—making measures, &c.,—for several years past.

Crossing the road south, and on the west side of the stream, a shop was built about 1820, by Jacob Simonds. It was afterwards run by Bill and Jake Taylor, and Levi Haskell. About forty years since, it became the property of Phinehas Parks, Jr., and is still in his possession. It has been used in cutting up timber for various purposes.

The Gibson mill, so called, near the mouth of Priest's brook, was built not far from the beginning of the century. It stood near the road to South Royalston. A flood swept it away in 1817. It was rebuilt farther down stream, on the present site.

Just below is the sash and blind shop of Mr. Minot Patch.

The mill belonging to William Beaman, about half way from Carter's mill to the Vt. & Mass. railroad, was put up in 1843-4.

#### WOOD WARE.

In early times, *shingles* in large quantities, were split out of the noble pines which almost covered the land. From this circumstance, neighboring people called the place *Shingletown*. There is an old joke that shingles were used for currency. It is said that when a party of young fellows took their girls to ride, they used to throw a bundle or two of shingles into the wagon to pay their tavern bills.

In due time the abundance of pine timber was worked into other forms, chiefly by hand. The first attempt at making pails, &c., by machinery, has been referred to above. The invention of the cylinder or barrel saw, by Dea. Reuben Hyde, was the indispensable requisite to the rapid making of pails, tubs, churns, &c. After Elisha Murdock engaged in the business, the improvement in machinery was a steady growth. At first the staves were split with a froe, and shaved by hand. Then they were set up endwise and driven down between two shaves, one

concave and the other convex. The present mode was a great improvement. When Mr. Murdock wanted anything in the shape of machinery, he used to go to the shop of his brother William and ask him if he could fix it. And so the ingenious machinery by which wood ware is now turned off so rapidly, took shape. Others, by their ingenuity, contributed to the final perfection.

At present there are eight or nine large mills for the making of wood ware in the town. Two are carried on by Murdock & Co., two by E. Murdock & Co., one by Irving E. Weston, one by Washington Whitney, one by William Beaman, one by Woodcock & Sawyer, one by Orlando Mason, the Sibley mill, and the Aldrich & Co. mill.

This business was the *specialty* of the town, for many years. From small beginnings it grew by degrees to its present importance. The invention of the cylinder saw made it possible for the business to be done on an extensive scale. The Hon. Elisha Murdock, and Capt. Ephraim Murdock, availing themselves of this and other facilities, commenced a new era in the wood ware business, which has been followed up by themselves and others to the present time. The statistics of this and other branches of business cannot be given for want of space. It would require a volume. For several years, the pail and tub business was confined to this town, but it is now carried on in many places, east and west. Nearly all the machinery, however, for the shops far and near, has been made in our machine shops.

#### COTTON MILLS.

The woolen mills have already been referred to, so far as their origin is concerned; and as none are in operation now, nothing farther need be said in relation to them. There are two cotton factories now in successful business,—one in Spring Village, and one at B. D. Whitney's dam. The origin and history of the first has already been given. The second was built in 1853-4, is 112 feet long and 45 feet wide, and is two stories in height, besides the attic. The Mill is rented by N. D. White & Co., and is under the superintendence of Dea. Windsor N. White. It contains 2,500 spindles.

#### MACHINE SHOPS.

The first machine shop, properly so called, was started by Col. William Murdock, in 1839. It was thought quite wonderful that he had a

machine with which he could shave iron. Probably his shop has turned out the greatest variety of work of any in town.

Baxter D. Whitney was engaged with him several years. In 1846, he built the railroad dam, and set up a saw-mill and machine shop where his extensive establishment now stands. The mill and dam were carried away by the flood of 1852. Since then all the other buildings, including foundry, wooden-ware shop, factory, carriage-makers and blacksmith shops, have been erected. Mr. Whitney makes machinery for working in wood, and his machines are widely and favorably known. The London "Engineering," in 1857, in an article upon American machinery, says that the English workmen prefer the American machines to those made in any other country, and that Mr. Whitney's are the best.

In 1860, Messrs. Goodspeed & Wyman purchased the property now in their possession, and began the manufacture of machines for making wooden ware. In addition they have done an extensive business in sewing machines. Mr. John D. Folsom has followed the same business for several years, sending out sewing machines in large number to distant parts of the country. Others have, at times, undertaken this business, though not with equal success.

The above are the main branches of mechanical business in the town, though a great variety of articles is made in smaller establishments. Most of these, however have been referred to in tracing the history of mill-sites. As this volume is not a directory of business, more space cannot be given to a subject the full treatment of which would require a book of quite respectable size. It is enough to say that the MEASURES of Dea. Hyde, the FAUCETS of Messrs. Charles A. & Sumner Loud, the SLEDS and CARTS of Mr. Ezra Hyde, the BOXES and BEDS of the Messrs. Chase, the MOPS, etc., of Mr. M. T. Nash, add much to the annual production of the place.

#### STORES.

The first store in Winchendon, as already stated, was opposite the Nichols tavern, in the corner of Mrs. Connor's lot. It was a small affair. Stores were opened on the Common not long after. Among the traders then were Bemsly Lord, Holman & Bruce, Joseph Jewett, Reed & Walker, Phineas Whitney, Atkins Morton and Cornelius Raymond.

The first store in the Village was kept by Thomas, son of Hon. Abel Wilder. This was opened about seventy years ago. After him came Robert Ruggles, Stillman Flint, Mr. Greenwood, Atkins Morton, Perkins & Putnam, Charles Tolman, Obadiah Walker, Luther Richardson, Ephraim, Jr., and Elisha Murdock, C. R. Whitman, George Brown, Levi Peck, Hand & Merrill, Moses Hancock, H. Harwood, J. M. Heywood, Joseph Murdock, Watson Monroe, William and Levi Brooks, and William Brown, 2d, besides those now doing business here. Mr. A. Whitney, Jr., began trading more than thirty years ago, and continues in the business still, with his son, George. Mr. Whitney, Messrs. A. B. Smith, C. C. Parker, Silas Raymond, Wyman & Mason, C. L. Carter, and others in various branches, have been and are still doing a large business. I. J. Dunn and Messrs. George and Calvin Bryant, do an extensive business in the grocery line. George S. Dodge has carried on the business of an apothecary for several years; William Pollard, Almon Mann, Horace Whitcomb and C. H. Tarbell, have kept shoe stores. Wm. H. Wood & Co. deal in flour, grain, &c., and Messrs. Doane, Miller & Hyde keep a fine market. The jewellers have been Messrs. Wm. C. Nichols, A. J. Parker, H. C. & G. H. Murdock and George F. Barr; the harness makers have been Messrs. M. B. and L. S. Felton, and Wetherhead & Sinclair; and Jonas A. Carruth deals in clothing. The millinery establishments of Mrs. Ellen A. Converse, and Mrs. C. P. Fairbanks, are well known in all the vicinity.

There was a store at Spring Village at different times. Mr. John D. Dunbar, and Rev. Joseph Watson, in his later years, kept dry goods and groceries for sale.

The traders in Waterville have been Moses Hancock, James Marsh, Trask W. Ray, and W. H. Whittemore. About fifty years ago, Dr. Pentland had a store near John Cook's. At present there is a large trade in the Village, by which the wants of this and neighboring towns are supplied.

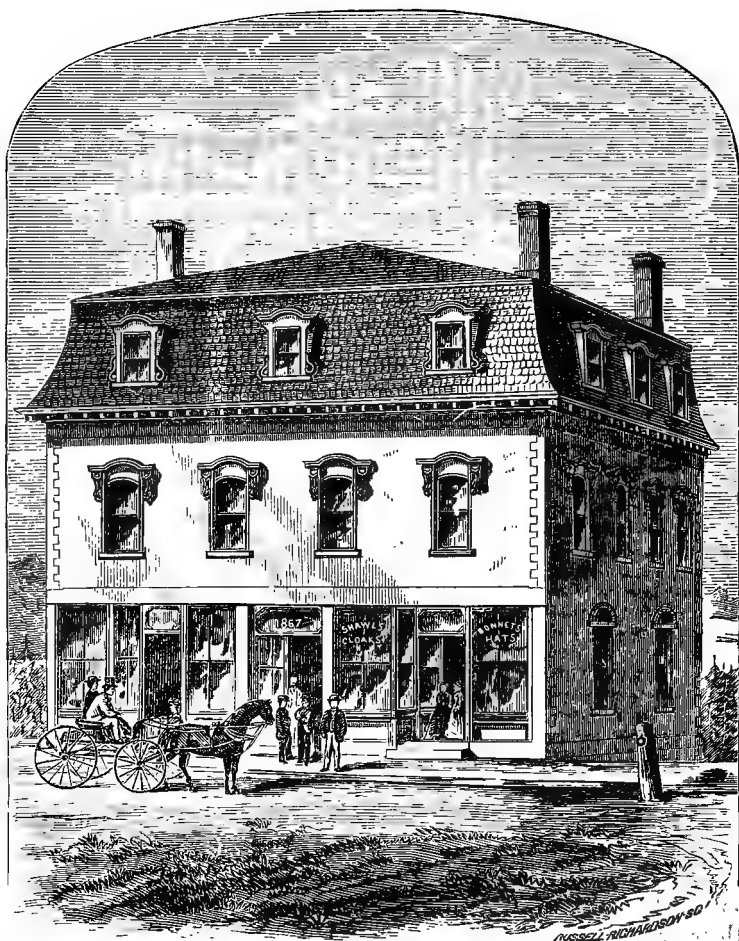
#### CARPENTERS, BLACKSMITHS, &C.

The larger part of the houses in the Village have been built by Esq. Murdock, Mark Whitcomb, Sidney and Levi N. Fairbank, E. W. Lord, A. W. Buttrick, and Raymond & Forristall.

There was a blacksmith shop, long ago, owned by Jason Bemis, near the top of the hill on the road from the Village to the Centre. Col. Adams carried on the business on the Common. His sons Benjamin







**First National Bank.**

and Oliver, wrought at the same trade. Most of this business in the Village, during the last thirty-five years, has been in the hands of Oliver Adams, Daniel and Salmon Scott, Harvey Wyman and Luke Hale. J. C. Lynch is a carriage maker, and Levi Flagg aids in promoting general cleanliness by making a large quantity of soap. The workers and dealers in tin, copper, stoves, &c., at different times, have been Wm. and S. Knapp, E. T. Russell, J. P. Barber and A. P. Bateman. Bricks in large quantity, are made by S. Chamberlain and Wm. Brown. But this catalogue must have an end.

#### AMOUNT OF BUSINESS.

It is not possible to give the exact amount of manufacturing business in the town annually. The following derived from an authentic source, is given as an approximation. The annual product of wood ware, and things of that nature, amounts probably to the value of \$400,000. The cotton fabrics are not less than \$300,000. Machinery of various kinds, amounts to nearly \$150,000. Other manufactures will swell the sum total to \$1,000,000. To this must be added the products of the soil, the profits of trade, &c.

#### CORPORATIONS.

##### WINCHENDON SAVINGS BANK.

This was organized in 1854. Hon. Elisha Murdock was the first President, Sullivan B. Ball, Treasurer, and Calvin R. Whitman, Clerk. Quite a large amount has been deposited in the bank, from the beginning. The present deposits are not less than \$175,000. The following is the present board of officers; E. Murdock, Jr., President; Alvah Godding, Wm. Brown, 2d, J. H. Fairbank, M. T. Nash, N. D. White, and W. L. Woodcock, Vice Presidents; Silas Raymond, Irving E. Weston, Seth Tucker, O. Mason, Henry Whitcomb, B. Ellis, S. Fairbank, B. D. Whitney, C. C. Alger, and I. M. Murdock, Trustees; G. H. Whitney, Auditor; B. Ellis, Secretary, *pro tem*; Charles L. Beals, Treasurer.

##### WINCHENDON NATIONAL BANK.

This institution was started in 1864, as a National Bank, with a capital of \$100,000. The next year it was increased to \$150,000. John Henry Fairbank has been President, and Charles L. Beals, Cashier, from the beginning. The first Board of Directors was as follows, viz: J. H. Fairbank, O. Mason, Sidney Fairbank, George Brown, I. E. Weston, J. B. Sawyer, and William Smith, of Templeton. The following changes have been made: Messrs. Charles J. Rice, and N. D. White, take the places of Messrs. Brown and Weston.

## CHAPTER XXV.—FIRE DEPARTMENT.

“Then came  
The hollow sound of rushing flame ;  
And from each loophole flashing light,  
A spout of fire shines ruddy bright,  
And gathering to united glare,  
Streams high into the midnight air.”

SCOTT.

## SECTION I.—FIRE WARDS.

In the early history of the town, no special measures were taken by the public in reference to fires. There was little danger that log cabins would take fire, and if seasonably discovered, there was no great difficulty in extinguishing the flames. When a fire occurred, the family exerted themselves to put it out ; and the neighbors, if any were near enough to render assistance, hastened to their aid. Perhaps the first step in the way of organized co-operation, was the annual choice of Fire Wards by the town, and the requirement that families should be supplied with fire buckets. In many places, every house was required to be furnished with a certain number. These were made of leather, were always to be in order, and hung up in a particular place, so as to be available at once. In other places, ordinary pails were used. It is many years since the town began the practice of choosing fire wards, who have been generally selected from the most respected citizens. Their authority is considerable, and in former times, was exercised more than at present. The establishment of a well-organized fire department has naturally transferred much of the actual responsibility, in case of fire, to the Foreman. The office of fire ward, however, is still important, as it is necessary for the town's authority to be represented on such occasions.

## SECTION 2.—THE PILOT.

The first fire company in this town, was formed sometime between 1830 and 1835. The meeting which stands first in the Record Book

of the Co., bears date, July 7th, 1835. At this meeting a committee was chosen "to settle accounts of 1834," showing that the organization was in existence as early as that year. The officers chosen at the meeting in July, 1835, were as follows: Ephraim Murdock, Jr., Captain; Joshua Keith, 2d, Mate; Benjamin F. Eddy, Clerk; Mark Whitcomb, Sumner Wyman, Calvin R. Whitman, Engine Committee. The annual meeting was held on the first Tuesday in April. It was a rule that "the meetings for drill shall be at the Engine House on the first Monday of each month from May to October inclusive, and the time for roll calling shall be in May, at 5 o'clock, A. M.; in June, July and August, at 4 o'clock, A. M.; in September, at 5 1-2 o'clock, A. M.; in October, at 6 o'clock, P. M." That was taking "time by the forelock."

The burning of Col. B. Adams' blacksmith shop is said to have aroused the people to the necessity of having an engine and a company to work it. The money for purchasing the PILOT was raised by subscription. The engine was used at a fire for the first time, as well as can be ascertained at this late day, when the house of Asa Stearns was burned in 1834, or 35. It was not a very powerful machine, according to the present standard, but with an efficient company, it did good service on many occasions.

It may gratify some to read the names of the first members. The following were on the roll in 1835.

Elisha Murdock,  
Sumner Wyman,  
Charles Smith,  
Joshua Keith, 2d,  
Benj. F. Eddy,  
Oliver Adams,  
Amasa Whitney, Jr.,  
Isaac Taylor, Jr.,  
Emery Carriel,  
Samuel Walton,  
Charles Murdock,  
Calvin R. Whitman,  
Alonzo Merriam,  
Mark Whitcomb,  
Isaac Pollard,  
Joel M. Heywood,  
Harry Pitkin,  
Ephraim Murdock,  
William Murdock,

John Fitts,  
Milton S. Morse,  
Levi Foskett,  
Levi Woodbury,  
Leander Sampson,  
Stephen Burpee,  
Hiram S. Newton,  
D. J. Goodrich,  
Moses H. Ross,  
Seth Tucker, Jr.,  
Edwin Bradbury,  
M. T. Nash,  
Elihu L. Morse,  
\* Joseph Smith,  
A. C. Fay,  
George W. Morse,  
William Russell,  
William Wilder.

Total, 37.

The following officers were chosen in 1836, viz: William Pollard, Capt.; Oliver Adams, Mate; Calvin R. Whitman, Clerk; William Murdock, Amasa Whitney, Jr., Harry Pitkin, Engine Committee. The next year, the Captain, Mate and Clerk, were Ephraim Murdock, Milton S. Morse and William Murdock. It is not necessary to give the officers' names from year to year. The following gentlemen besides those named above, acted as Captain at different periods, several of them holding the office repeatedly: Milton S. Morse, Baxter D. Whitney, Marvin T. Nash, Sumner Wyman, Harvey Wyman.

The Records of the Pilot Company close in 1847, but the engine has been used at fires, since that time, on various occasions. It was sold in 1867, for \$113.

### SECTION 3.—THE ALERT COMPANY.

This Company had its origin in a paper dated January 27, 1851, and signed by a number of citizens who felt the need of an efficient organization for extinguishing fires. On the 8th of February, a "meeting of those interested in forming an Engine Company to be attached to Engine No. 1, of this town, was held at the Passenger house of the Cheshire Railroad Co., at 7 o'clock, P. M." William Murdock was chairman, and Nathaniel Gilmore, clerk. A Constitution and By-laws were adopted, and the following officers were chosen: James P. T. Burbank, Foreman; Edwin S. Merrill, First Assistant; Sidney Fairbank, Second Assistant; William Murdock, Treasurer; M. B. Felton, Clerk.

A committee was chosen to petition the Selectmen to insert an article in the "warrant for the March meeting, asking the town to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to purchase a Suction Engine." The Selectmen complied with the request, and in accordance with the Statutes, appointed certain persons as "Engine-men to be attached to Engine No. 1."

The Engine was purchased by subscription, but the town, at the March meeting, in 1852, appropriated \$100 for purchasing "Hose for Alert Engine Co.," and \$67.75 for Engine-men. In 1853, the expense of the Fire Department, including hose and couplings, repairs of Engine, and money paid to men, amounted to \$395.77. The next year, "Engine Hose, \$200." The expenses from year to year need not be given. The citizens have ever been proud of the Alert Company, and by vote of the town or private subscription, have evinced

their appreciation of its services. It has always been very serviceable at fires; promptly on the ground, and both alert and skilled to do effective duty. It was noticed on the first occasion, when the Co. battled with a considerable fire—by which Mr. N. H. Hand's store and the barracks were burned,—that the noise and confusion formerly attendant upon fires was superseded by stillness and order. The contrast was striking.

This Company has competed with others, on various occasions, and has always come off with honor. The first contest was at Keene, N. H., on the 10th of September, 1857. The Alert Engine was manned by sixty-eight men, some of them volunteers. Twelve companies engaged in the trial, and the third prize was won by the Alert. The Deluge, of Claremont, N. H., threw to the height of 152 feet. The Franklin, of Greenfield, 151 feet, and the Alert, 150 1-2 feet. It was a close struggle. The day was windy, and the height reached was far less than the Co. had achieved at home. A few days before this trial, the Engine threw water five or six feet over the Liberty Pole, which was 173 feet in height. The third prize was \$50.

The next trial was at Manchester, N. H., on the 15th of September, 1859, when fifty-three companies were on the ground, and competed for the prizes. They came from many of the principal cities and towns of New England, as Boston, Providence, Worcester, Portland, Lynn, Portsmouth, Charlestown, Cambridge, Lowell, Chelsea, Nashua, Lawrence, Roxbury, Dover, &c. The Alert Engine surpassed all other companies; the water thrown by it reaching the height of 170 feet, while the next attained to 166 feet only. The highest prize was \$400. The following extract from the Record book—W. C. Hunt then clerk—gives the *finale* of this effort.

“Friday evening, Sept. 16th, 1859. On the Alert's arrival at Winchendon, the citizens of this place gave us a most cordial welcome. We were received at the depot by the Niagara Co. No. 2, when a torchlight procession was formed, headed by the Keene Cornet Band, and as we marched through the principal streets, we were greeted by the citizens, amid illuminated houses, bonfires, torches and cheers. We then proceeded to the American House, where a good supper awaited us, which was rounded off by a number of addresses and congratulatory speeches.”

On the 15th of September, 1860, the water was thrown about twenty feet above the top of the pole, or about 207 feet above the water in the

reservoir. The Co. were getting ready for a contest at Templeton. This trial came off on Templeton Common, September 21, 1860, when eight companies from the vicinity competed. The Alert reached the height of 168 3-4 feet; the next highest was 148 feet. The prize was a Banner. The playing being over, the Record says:

“After which the companies were ordered to form a hollow square, to hear the report of the several trials, at which time the Prize Banner was presented to the Alert Engine Co. No. 1, Winchendon, by Col. Henry Smith, with a powerful speech, which was responded to by Mr. I. M. Murdock, in behalf of the Foreman.”

The company is still in a flourishing condition, under the command of a favorite captain,—Charles Forristall—with full ranks. The Foremen, at different times, have been as follows: James P. T. Burbank, Edwin S. Merrill, Charles E. Forristall, John D. Howard, A. P. Bateman.

Doubtless the following extract from the Records—D. L. Morrill, Esq., Clerk—will remind many of the earlier members of the company of a pleasant day when they contributed much to the enjoyment of the people, while partaking themselves in the general joy.

#### CELEBRATION DAY.

“The Company met at the Engine House, in full uniform, Foreman commanding. The Company was here joined by the Waterville Brass Band, under direction of Col. J. Merriam, *Chief Marshal*, by whom they were accompanied to the Academy yard, where a procession was formed of the schools in town, and the citizens. The procession then moved under the escort of the Company, to the island of E. Murdock, Jr., where it is estimated there was an audience of more than 2000 persons. Numerous speeches were made, and refreshments furnished. The exercises in the grove were closed about 4, P. M.; after which the Company, with *Band*, paraded through the streets, and worked the Engine from the reservoir in front of the Academy building, greatly to the satisfaction and amusement of the assembled crowd, till 6, P. M. At 7, the members of the Company, with their ladies, partook of a bountiful supper, provided by Messrs. Whitcomb, Fairbank & Mason, at their hotel. Songs and sentiments succeeded, and at 8 1-2, P. M., the members and ladies separated; and repaired to witness the *Fire Works* under direction of Mr. T. Saul, which were very brilliant, and exceeded the expectations of all. The members of the Company then dispersed at their leisure.”



For many years the company was accommodated with an Engine house and hall by Capt. E. Murdock, Jr., for which the town gave him a vote of thanks.

Thirty-seven members entered the public service in putting down the rebellion. Their names will appear in the list of those who went from this town to the war. They had the hearty approbation of those who remained at home. The company was proud of their achievements, and rendered honor to those who fell in the field, or died from wounds, hardships and exposure. They rendered needed aid to comrades who suffered for the public good. In this connection it should be added that their Records contain grateful mention of a donation of \$100, received from Capt. E. Murdock, Jr., for the benefit of these soldiers or their surviving friends.

### SECTION 3.—THE NIAGARA COMPANY.

This company belonged to Waterville. It was organized in the year 1855, and after twelve years of service, was disbanded in 1867. The first meeting with a view to forming a company, was held in the Waterville school-house, on the 31st of March, 1855. William L. Woodcock presided, and Stillman Safford acted as Clerk. At a meeting, April 2, a committee chosen at the previous meeting reported a Constitution, which was adopted, after which the following officers were chosen: William Towne, Foreman; William L. Woodcock, First Assistant; L. B. Piper, Second Assistant; Charles Hyde, Clerk; Adam French, Treasurer. The stewards were L. Taylor and S. C. Aldrich. There were changes in the course of the year, by which Mr. C. Hyde became Treasurer, and Mr. J. Hastings became 2d Assistant.

The Engine, named the Niagara, was purchased by subscription. In 1857, the town paid \$112.72, for repairing the engine. In 1859, the town appropriated \$633.29, for Engine Hose. It is supposed that the Niagara had its share of this necessary apparatus. The officers for the second year, were William L. Woodcock, William H. Grant, Charles J. Piper, James A. Wood, including the stewards, Levi Taylor and Ozro Hancock. In the course of 1857, Mr. Stillman Safford was chosen Clerk, and he held that office during the entire existence of the company, except brief intervals, when S. C. Aldrich, D. Boyce, J. B. Burke and J. Leary kept the Records. These Records, if not filled with de-

scriptions of eventful scenes, present some very amusing specimens of humor.

The successive Foremen were William L. Woodcock, Jairus Hastings, Samuel Page, William H. Grant, Amasa Aldrich, Samuel Kendall, Francis D. Perry.

The company was always, according to its motto, "ready for action," and rendered very prompt and efficient service, in case of fire, whether in Waterville, or in other parts of the town. And at various trials, as at Jaffrey, Keene, &c., it came off honorably, if not with the highest prizes. The spirit by which this company was sustained so long, is highly creditable to the members, and the citizens of Waterville, who gave their encouragement; and it is matter of regret that an organization capable of such energetic service, which is at times, almost indispensable, has disbanded. Quite a proportion of the members entered the public service, and some fell in the sacred cause of freedom.

## CHAPTER XXVI.—LIBRARIES AND LYCEUMS.

“Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a progeny of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve, as in a vial, the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them. Unless wariness be used, as good almost kill a man as kill a good book; who kills a man, kills a reasonable creature, God’s image; but he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were in the eye.”

MILTON.

——“The grand debate,  
The popular harangue, the tart reply,  
The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,  
And the loud laugh—I long to know them all.”  
COWPER.

### SECTION I.—THE FIRST LIBRARIES.

The first settlers of the town were not a literary people. Books were few and periodicals almost unknown. The successive ministers had certain works which were necessary in studying the Bible in the original tongues, besides a moderate number of theological, controversial and miscellaneous books. Through their preaching, the intellectual as well as moral and religious tone of the public mind was elevated. They were often styled, in the Records, “teachers of morality, piety and religion.” They were in the habit also of giving instruction in different branches, to the youth, either singly or in classes. In Mr. Stimpson’s Book of Accounts, there is a charge for teaching Arithmetic to some youth whose wants the schools did not meet. In former times, the ministers fitted the boys for College, though very little in that line was done in Winchendon. Perhaps the two ministerial sons of Dr. Israel Whiton were the first who began a classical education in this place.

The physicians had their collection of books which were necessary in their profession. The same was true of the lawyers—Messrs. Newcomb and Henshaw—in later years. Doubtless there were works on their shelves pertaining to history, philosophy and the *belles lettres*; but

the number was not large. In scattered farm houses there would be found stray volumes of poetry—Young, Thomson, Cowper, &c.,—but there was, of course, nothing to be compared with the abundance of books, magazines and papers, which are now to be seen in all our homes. And it may be said farther, that there was scarcely any of the trash which now enfeebles rather than invigorates the minds of the readers.

The first library for circulation was in the Centre. When it was begun is not known to the present generation. It was kept for a while by Dea. Joshua Smith, and afterwards by Mark Whitcomb. It was sold about forty-two years since. The next collection of books belonging to a company, was in the Village, and was kept for many years in the house of Ephraim Murdock, Esq. It is supposed by those who remember this library, that it was started about the year 1810. This continued in existence until somewhere near 1825; when it was sold by auction. There were from 150 to 175 volumes in the collection. Sometime between 1830 and 1835, another library was commenced, which was for a long series of years, under the care of Mark Whitcomb, Esq. This contained between 200 and 300 volumes, some of which were works of value. The Family Library series well known in the last generation; was in the collection. This library, after a career of usefulness, followed in the way of its predecessors, and was scattered by sale at auction, a little more than twenty years since.

#### SECTION 2.—THE TOWN LIBRARY.

The public library owes its origin to private liberality. On the evening of December 6, 1850, the writer gave a lecture in the hall of the Academy, on the subject of READING. The lecture closed in the words following.

“There is then, money enough, if it can only be got at; and it can be had, just as soon as our young gentlemen take the same interest in reading, and in a library, that they do in other things. May we not hope that such a time will come? May we not hope that the time has already arrived, when many of this enterprising class are ready to commence the enterprise? But surely the burden ought not to be thrown upon them; nor would it be. I am not authorized to speak for any man, but I feel sure that there are ladies and gentlemen in this place, who will readily co-operate in establishing among us a well-selected library, and in that way open up to our youth, of either sex, a fountain of improvement and of happiness; an inexhaustible spring of the pur-

est, richest nutriment for the immortal minds of the youth of this generation, and of the many generations that are to come."

At the close of the address, Ira Russell, M. D., rose and proposed that immediate measures be taken to establish a library. The motion was passed without opposition, and a committee was chosen to raise a subscription. At the same time, it was determined to form a literary association for general improvement. A corporation was formed under the General Statute, and adopted at a meeting held on the 18th of February, 1851, of which meeting the following is the record.

"Academy Hall.

Meeting was called to order by D. L. Morrill, Esq., in pursuance to a warrant which was read.

On Motion, William L. Lincoln was chosen Clerk *pro tem*.

Heard the report of the committee appointed to present a Constitution for this Association, which was read by A. P. Marvin, Chairman.

*Voted* that the Constitution be taken up, article by article.

After some discussion on the part of several gentlemen present, it was voted to adopt the following Constitution."

Then follows the Constitution, after which the names of the first officers are recorded. They are as follows:

"President, Elisha Murdock; Vice President, Calvin R. Whitman; Clerk, E. S. Merrill; Treasurer, Amasa Whitney, Jr.; Executive Committee, Ira Russell, Orlando Mason, Wm. L. Lincoln, Henry Perley and Ebenezer Butler; Library Committee, A. P. Marvin, B. O. Tyler, E. Murdock, Jr., D. L. Morrill and Alvah Godding."

Mr. Merrill declined serving, and H. Harwood was chosen Clerk.

The following was the result of the effort to raise a subscription for the purchase of books. The condition of payment was that \$300 should be raised. Col. William Murdock procured the subscriptions.

|                   |         |                      |        |
|-------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Elisha Murdock,   | \$30 00 | Geo. Brown,          | \$5 00 |
| Milton S. Morse,  | 15 00   | Joel M. Heywood,     | 5 00   |
| Wm. Murdock,      | 15 00   | Orlando Mason,       | 5 00   |
| B. O. Tyler,      | 15 00   | M. B. Felton,        | 5 00   |
| Alvah Godding,    | 15 00   | Wm. Knapp,           | 5 00   |
| D. L. Morrill,    | 10 00   | Geo. B. Raymond,     | 2 00   |
| H. Harwood,       | 10 00   | Wm. L. Lincoln,      | 5 00   |
| Sidney Fairbanks, | 10 00   | Chas. E. Forristall, | 2 00   |
| E. Murdock, Jr.,  | 30 00   | A. P. Marvin,        | 5 00   |

|                    |        |                     |        |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Oman Hoar,         | \$3 00 | Smyrna Greateon,    | \$2 00 |
| B. D. Whitney,     | 5 00   | Leander Hartwell,   | 1 00   |
| Wm. Beaman,        | 3 00   | Amasa Whitney, Jr., | 3 00   |
| J. M. Doane,       | 2 00   | Calvin R. Whitman,  | 10 00  |
| Reuben Hyde,       | 3 00   | Leander Leland,     | 1 00   |
| Joseph Merriam,    | 2 00   | Wm. W. Whitney,     | 2 00   |
| B. R. Day,         | 2 00   | S. S. Cooledge,     | 3 00   |
| Andrew Parker,     | 1 00   | M. D. Raymond,      | 1 00   |
| E. S. Merrill,     | 5 00   | E. W. Lord,         | 2 00   |
| S. W. Fairbank,    | 2 00   | A. W. Buttrick,     | 2 00   |
| E. W. Weston,      | 5 00   | Maynard Partridge,  | 2 00   |
| Ira Russell,       | 10 00  | Seth Brown,         | 1 00   |
| C. C. Parker,      | 1 00   | Theodore Reynolds,  | 2 00   |
| Selah Lovejoy,     | 2 00   | David Caswell,      | 2 00   |
| Bethuel Ellis,     | 2 00   | Elisha Hyde,        | 1 00   |
| A. S. Kimball,     | 2 00   | Joel Hyde,          | 2 00   |
| Henry Perley,      | 3 00   | H. M. Heywood,      | 2 00   |
| Elisha Beaman,     | 5 00   | S. A. Parker,       | 1 00   |
| Grover S. Whitney, | 2 00   | Walter Conant,      | 1 00   |
| Franklin Heywood,  | 2 00   | Amos Knowlton,      | 2 00   |
| John Hyde,         | 1 00   | Harvey Wyman,       | 5 00   |

The design of the organization, which was styled "The Winchendon Scientific and Literary Association," included more than the gathering of a library. The Constitution provided for Discussions, Lectures, and Evening Schools for young men. This last part of the design was never carried out. The discussions which took place in the town hall during the winter months for several years, are still remembered with interest by many who attended them. They were conducted with ability and courtesy. Several courses of lectures were provided by the executive committee. The tickets sometimes more than paid the expenses, though not in every instance. Besides lectures from several citizens of the town, quite a number were delivered by distinguished speakers from abroad. Among these may be mentioned Messrs. Beecher, Emerson, Whipple, Holmes, Bp. Clark, Alger, Starr King, Parker, Phillips, Richardson of Worcester, and Dr. Jackson of Boston, who gave a course on Geology. Some of the lectures were strictly scientific, as on Astronomy, Geology, &c., but the larger part were on literary or historical subjects, or topics of the day.

The library however was what gave permanent value to the Association, and great care was used in selecting the books. The following General Rules in relation to the library, were adopted by the Association, in accordance with the recommendation of the library committee.

“1st. The design is not to form a complete library in any of its departments immediately ; but to lay the foundations of a good one in the various departments of History, Biography, Poetry, Essays, Travels, &c. The intention of the founders must be filled out by periodical additions.

2d. It is considered important to exclude all sectarian works, and all those which openly or covertly attempt to undermine the principles of Christian morality and religion.

3d. The Constitution provides that no book shall be purchased, or received as a gift, for the use of the library, unless it is approved by a majority of the whole committee.”

The money was spent in purchasing books, and a book case, and the library was opened, first in the “ Barracks,” and then in a room over the store of Amasa Whitney, Jr. D. L. Morrill, Esq., was the first librarian. He was succeeded by Mr. Whitney, and by Dr. A. B. Hoyt. The books then passed into the care of Mrs. Calista P. Fairbanks, who was librarian for a term of five years. The library was kept in her parlor. In 1862, Mr. George S. Dodge was appointed librarian, and he kept the books in a room at the rear of his apothecary’s store in the Union block.

The library was enlarged, from time to time, by judicious selections, and as means were provided by gifts, fines, assessments and fairs. In the meantime an Agricultural Library had been formed by subscription. This contained about one hundred and thirty volumes of standard works in that department. In the year 1865, an arrangement was made by which these volumes were added to the library of the Association. At a meeting held on the 16th of January, 1867, it was voted “ to present the library to the town at the next March meeting, provided the town will provide for its maintenance and enlargement and proper keeping for the accommodation of the readers of the town.” This was done accordingly, and the library passed into the possession of the town. And as the town is authorized, by a special law, to appropriate money for the purpose of founding and enlarging public libraries, it is to be hoped that the library established by the Association, will become more valuable and useful than it could be while in private hands. In commencing a library, the town is authorized to appropriate one dollar for every ratable poll, and in continuing it, half a dollar for every ratable poll, annually. The library of the town now contains more than fifteen hundred volumes, the greater number of which are works of permanent value. The Trustees of the library, chosen annually by the town, are

in 1868, Messrs. Isaac M. Murdock, William Pentecost, Windsor N. White, George S. Dodge and George A. Litchfield. Mrs. Wheeler Doland is the librarian.

### SECTION 3.—OTHER LIBRARIES.

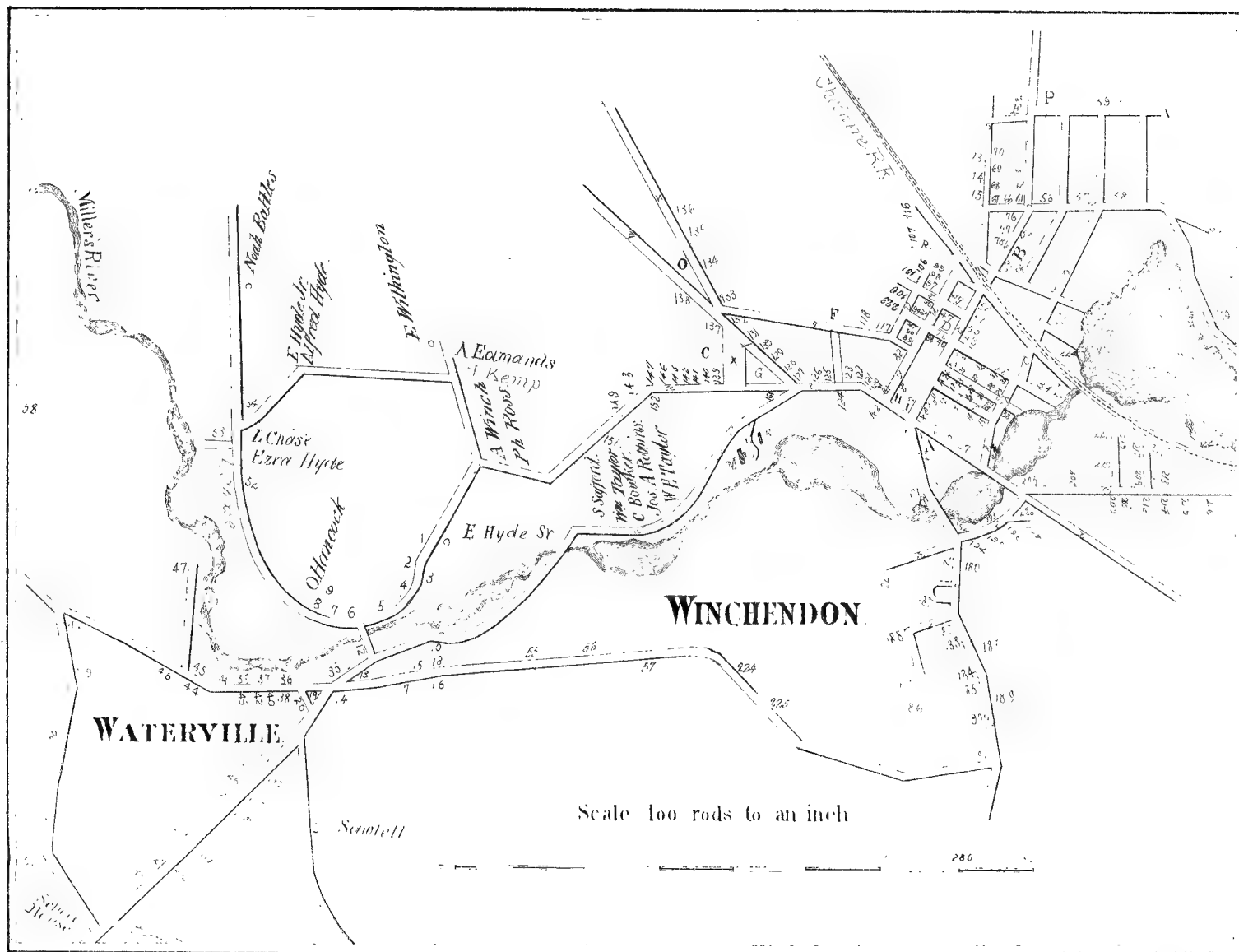
The NORTH CONGREGATIONAL PARISH LIBRARY was begun in the year 1847. It originated in a proposition made by the pastor to his congregation on a Sabbath when preparations were making for the annual contribution for benevolent objects. His suggestion was, that at every annual subscription for benevolent societies, in the month of May, there should be a column for the Parish Library. Each one was to give as he might feel at the time. The library was to be in the pastor's study, and though any member of the congregation might use the books, it was expected that the parish would derive its chief advantage from them through the mind and heart of the minister. The suggestion was favorably received, and from that date, every year has added a few choice volumes to the parish library. It contains the works of the chief New England divines, with those of Calvin, Turretin, Robert Hall, and Neander, and those of other distinguished authors in the old world. Milton's prose writings, Robinson's Palestine, Story on the Constitution, and Morell on the History of Philosophy, enrich the collection. By judicious nursing it may grow to be a very valuable library, just such a one as would draw hither a man earnest to feed his people with knowledge of divine things.

The SABBATH SCHOOL LIBRARIES belonging to the several churches in the town, are quite large, and many of the books have more than a transient value. These libraries are in a constant process of change. After the volumes are read, they are generally given to Sabbath Schools in other places. The number of the volumes in the various Sabbath School libraries cannot be given, but probably it is not less than fifteen hundred.

A COMMON SCHOOL library was kept in Spring Village, several years, but was finally scattered.

In addition it may be said, that of the buying of "many books there is no end." Besides the libraries of professional men,—ministers, lawyers and doctors—which contain the works necessary in the professions, most of our houses are supplied, in different measure, with useful or entertaining works.





EXPLANATIONS.—In some cases several families have lived in the same house. Such families are placed in connection with the same figure. When a short dash — separates a name from the preceding, it shows that the family lived in a house near by. For example, under figure 1, Amos Goodhue lived between Mark Whitcomb's and G. H. Whitney's or where the Church now stands. When several names are placed between two figures, as 39-46, the families lived in the order of the names, and when two or more families have occupied the same house, they are joined together by a brace. No. 225 should be placed further east, and 221 near by it, should be erased.

STREETS.—a Front. b Central. c Spring. d Ash. e Water. f High. h Prospect. k Beech. l Chestnut. m Walnut. n Summer. o Poplar. r Maple. s Cedar. t Grove. u Pleasant. v Spruce. w River. x Chapel. y Forest. z School. PUBLIC BUILDINGS &c.—A North Cong'l Church. B Baptist Church. C Methodist Church. D Church of the Unity. E Catholic Church. F New School House. G Academy. H Town Hall. I Hotel. (John Rurr, A. Merriam, Isaac Morse, E. Murdock, Jr., Milton S. Morse, Orlando Mason, John H. Fairbanks). K Goodspeed & Wyman's Machine Shop. L B. D. Whitney's Machine Shop. M Tannery. N Wm. Murdock's Machine Shop. O Old School House. P North School House. R Steam Mill.

| WINCHENDON.   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Mark Whitcomb, Charles Whitcomb.  | 37 Amos Withington.   | 78 George B. Raymond.   | 130 John Hand,  | 176 Bethuel Ellis.   | 218 Patrick Sullivan,  | 17 Amasa Aldrich.                                    |  |  |  |
| 2 Amos Goodhue.   | 38 James C. Lynch.  | 79 James Whitman.   | A. H. Merriam,  | 177 A. F. Marvin,  | M. Ribideau,   | 17 J. B. Sawyer,                                     |  |  |  |
| 3 Barth'w Parsons, Richard Parsons, Miles Putnam.                         | 39-46 Sidney Fairbank, Harry Pitkin, Martin Munzer, Leavitt Lincoln, John Sweetzer, John W. Rand, Henry Whitecomb, H. Harwood, Jacob Taylor, Jedediah Morse, Union Block, Marble Yard, Grain Store. | 80 Thomas Greston, Isaac Gibson, Thomas Knowlton.   | R. W. Geddes.   | Ebenezer Butler, N. W. Wyman,  | Morty Sullivan, Jas. Harriman, John Donahay, Richard Murray, James Connor, M. and D. Dacey.        | B. H. Streeter.                                      |  |  |  |
| 4 Thomas Wilder, David Caswell.   | 47 Stillman Watson, G. S. Whitney, John Folsom.   | 81 E. Murdock, Jr.  | 121 David S. Roby, Lincoln Balcom.  | 178 George N. Goodspeed, Harrison Goodspeed.   | 219-221 M. Buckley, Dennis Shay, M. Ready, John Lappan, Ed. Brabston, Patrick Fitzgerald.          | 18 Lyman Davis.                                      |  |  |  |
| 5 William Pollard, A. N. Brown, E. S. Tarbell, Arthur Bouche.             | 48 Misses Knowlton.   | 82 M. T. Nash.  | 132 John Sawyer, H. G. Lovell, Charles Streeter.  | 180 Asa Washburn, Amasa Whitney, James Wilson, C. C. Parker.   | 222 O. W. Betterly, Alonzo Hale, George Farrar, Samuel Kendall, H. S. Knapp, Ch. H. Vose, M. Wood. | 19 Moses Hancock, Oren Powers.                       |  |  |  |
| 6 Levi Peck, Horace Whitcomb, Joel Hunt, Warren Hunt.                     | 49 Irving E. Weston.  | 83-88 D. C. Chamberlain, George Hubbard, Moses Munzer, A. B. Smith, Charles A. Loud, W. E. Cutting, O. Mason, Davis Foster, George S. Loud.                                   | 133 M. T. Nash, Edwin T. Warner, Benj. Kendall.   | 181 Washington Whitney.  | 223 George S. Dodge, John Sawin, Th. B. Barber, H. Crocker.  | 20 Harrison Aldrich.                                 |  |  |  |
| 7 William Murdock, Baxter D. Whitney.                                     | 50 Nathaniel Gilmore, Samuel A. Parker, D. H. Barnes.   | 89 George Converse.   | 134 Benj. Kendall, Henry Newman.  | 182 Charles Weller.  | Q. S. Backus, P. S. Davis, Mrs. Stillman Watson.   | 21 George Fitts.                                     |  |  |  |
| 8 Webster Whitney, Archus Kimball.  | 51 Horace Whitecomb, Alonzo Shedd, Jonas A. Carruth, George E. Rogers.  | 90 Isaac J. Dunn.   | 135 Amos Withington, Henry Newman.  | 183 John Gay.  | L. M. Sawyer, E. W. Morse.   | 22 Stephen Samson.                                   |  |  |  |
| 9 Mrs. S. Tolman, Ira Russell.  | 52 Luther Stevens, David F. Hall.   | 91-93 James Woodbury, Absalom Hastings, George L. Beals.  | 136 Elijah Smith, John Demary.  | 184 Comfort Searle.  | Abram Childs, James Lawrence, John O'Neil, Michael Foley and others.                               | 23 Mrs. Jacob Simonds, Oren Hale.                    |  |  |  |
| 10 Stores of A. Whitney.  | 53 Silas Raymond, Orlando Mason.  | 94 Lyman Raymond.   | 137 Seth Brown.   | 185 Timothy E. Turner.   | Francis Goodhue, Francis Goodhue, Jr., Mr. Benjamin.   | 24 Oscar Gerould, Geo. S. Chadwick, Charles Simonds. |  |  |  |
| 11 Mrs. S. Tolman, Ira Russell.   | 54 M. B. Boardman, O. E. Weatherhead.   | 95-6 Mary Estey, Samuel Smith, C. T. Bryant, Lorenzo Ballou.  | 138 Adams Stanley.  | 186 William Raymond.   |  | 25 Elisha Morse.                                     |  |  |  |
| 12 Engine House.  | 55 Webster H. Tucker, A. G. Sinclair.   | 96 Bart'w Stearns.  | 139 William Beaman.   | 187 Henry Partridge.   |  | 26 Mrs. Syrena Sawtell.                              |  |  |  |
| 13 John C. Cutter, James O'Hara, John McKee.                              | 56 Seth Tucker, Seth Tucker, Jr., Webster H. Tucker.  | 97 George P. Sherwin.   | 140 Stephen Poland.   | 188 William Parks, Levi Woodbury, Frank Priest.  |  | 27 John Hitchcock.                                   |  |  |  |
| 14 Mrs. R. Whitney, Gilbert Stearns.                                      | 57 Geo. A. Litchfield, T. K. Parker.  | 98 G. Shedd, Addison Kimball.   | 141 Methodist Parsonage.  | 189 Gardner Wilder, El'phalet Parks, Sen., Levi Foskett.   |  | 28 Mrs. M. Coburn.                                   |  |  |  |
| 15 John Roddy, Hiram Walker.  | 58 Wm. A. Deland.   | 99 A. W. Buttrick.  | 142 Charles Tolman, Edwin Parks, Jonas A. Stone.  | 190 Oliver Adams.  |  | 29 Charles Hill.                                     |  |  |  |
| 16 Joel Heywood, Harvey Taft, Charles T. Stearns.                         | 59 Chas. W. Plummer, Mrs. Magovern.   | 100 S. C. Ketchum.  | 143 Joseph A. Robbins.  | 191 Levi Nichols, Benjamin Hall, Major Sylvester, Oliver Adams, Cromwell Fisher.   |  | 30 Stephen Samson, Solomon Stone.                    |  |  |  |
| 17 Paint Shop.  | 60 Frank S. Knapp.  | 101-106 John D. Howard, Oliver Puffer, Austin Parks, Otis Chamberlain, Levi Flagg, Benjamin Talbot.   | 144 Job and Joel Hyde, A. N. Brown.   | 192 Abel Jones, Levi Prentiss, M. Partridge, Harvey Wyman.   |  | 31 Mason Baldwin.                                    |  |  |  |
| 18 Gilman B. Parker.  | 61 H. O. Clark.   | 107-116 Richard Smith, Solon Maynard, Mrs. Eagan, Thomas Powers, James Powers, Patrick Macarty, Andrew Macarty, Thomas Burt, Cornelius Cochran, William Ready, Thomas Condon. | 145 Job Hyde's Shop.  | 193 Benjamin F. Eddy, Mrs. L. S. Wells, James F. Phillips.   |  | 32 Cyrus Alger.                                      |  |  |  |
| 19 D. L. Morrill, F. W. White, Wilder P. Clark.                           | 62 L. D. Pierce, L. W. Pierce, O. E. Skinner.   | 117 Charles W. Newman.  | 146 Paul Boynton, Reuben Hyde.  | 194 Wayland Howard, M. W. Chandler.  |  | 33 Cheney Smith.                                     |  |  |  |
| 20 E. S. Merrill.   | 63 L. D. Putney, L. J. Wilkinson.   | 118 Almon Mann.   | 147 A. F. Spaulding.  | 195 Summer Wyman.  |  | 34 Nathan Kendall.                                   |  |  |  |
| 21 J. S. Watson.  | 64 John L. Reed.  | 119 Robert Ruggles, Isaac Morse, Benj. K. Day.  | 148 J. H. Townsend.   | 196 Mrs. Connor.   |  | 35 David Carter.                                     |  |  |  |
| 22 Mrs. E. M. Shurtleff, R. M. Forristall.                                | 65 John Lake.   | 120 William Whitney.  | 149 John Hyde.  | 197 John Peabody.  |  | 36 Jarius Hastings.                                  |  |  |  |
| 23 G. Q. A. Bryant.   | 66 Mrs. H. Jones.   | 121 Elisha Murdock.   | 150-151 Store of E. Murdock, Jr., Post Office, Mann's Shoe Store, Millinery Store, Furniture Store, A. B. Smith's Store, Old Barracks formerly, Winchendon Bank, Mrs. Converse's Store, A. B. Sherman's Store, Tarbell's Shoe Store, Isaac J. Dunn's Store, Josiah J. Dunn's Store, Daniel M. Scott, Benj. Talbot, Gilman Taggart, Boarding House, C. Whitcomb's Shop, Printing Office. | 198 Wm. H. Vose, A. Whitney, Jr., Austin Parks, Wm. Brown, 2d.   |  | 37 F. D. Perry.                                      |  |  |  |
| 24 Stores of Bryant and Carter.   | 67 Harvey Taft, D. W. Harvey.   | 122 Amasa Whitney, Jr.  | 152-161 Jas. M. Doane, Wheeler Poland, Simon B. Poland, Smyrna Greston, Wm. A. Brooks, George H. Westcott, J. Wesley Poland, Leander Leland, Hiram L. Poland, Wm. B. Brooks, D. C. Chamberlain, John P. Barber, Salmon M. Scott, Carriage Shop, Blacksmith Shop.  | 199 Martin McCabe.   |  | 38 Henry Haskell.                                    |  |  |  |
| 25 L. N. Fairbanks, A. P. Marvin.   | 68 Charles E. Plummer, Mrs. Daniel Hale.  | 123 Amos Spring, Samuel Spring, Ephraim Murdock, George Brown.  | 162-171 Store of E. Murdock, Jr., Post Office, Mann's Shoe Store, Millinery Store, Furniture Store, A. B. Smith's Store, Old Barracks formerly, Winchendon Bank, Mrs. Converse's Store, A. B. Sherman's Store, Tarbell's Shoe Store, Isaac J. Dunn's Store, Josiah J. Dunn's Store, Daniel M. Scott, Benj. Talbot, Gilman Taggart, Boarding House, C. Whitcomb's Shop, Printing Office. | 200-204 L. Heywood, Wm. Brooks, John Dray, M. McBride, John Clary, James Connor, Patrick Connor, Dennis Shay, Timothy Riley, Joseph Lees, Patrick Ready, Humphrey Connor, Harry Pitkin, John Donahoe, Grover S. Whitney, Patrick Connor, Timothy Coffee, Edward Fitzgerald, Dennis Shay, Timothy Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Michael Reardon, Daniel Connor. |  | 39 John Ainslee, Edward Godding.                     |  |  |  |
| 26 Store of J. P. Barber.   | 69 Patrick Morrissey, Amable Beaudry.   | 124 Charles Wheeler.  | 172-178 C. K. Whitman, Joel M. Heywood, M. D. Raymond, El'phalet Parks, Oman Hoar,  | 205 Patrick Connor.  |  | 40 S. C. Aldrich.                                    |  |  |  |
| 27 E. W. Lord, C. L. Carter.  | 70 John Callahan.   | 125 Alvah Godding.  |   | 206 Dennis Shay.   |  | 41 Adam Shaler.                                      |  |  |  |
| 28 B. O. Tyler, Luke Hale.  | 71 John Callahan.   | 126 Chas. W. Bigelow, Frank W. Ward.  |   | 207 B. Stearns.  |  | 42 Stewart's Shop.                                   |  |  |  |
| 29 Wm. Brown, 2d., Henry Mason.   | 72 John Fitzgerald.   | 127 Daniel M. Scott.  |   | 208 Joseph Lees.   |  | 43 Richard Stewart, Heman Daniels.                   |  |  |  |
| 30 Baxter Robinson.   | 73 Mrs. Hayes.  | 128 Aaron Winch.  |   | 209 Patrick Ready.   |  | 44 Milton M. Parks.                                  |  |  |  |
| 31 George Lewis.  | 74 Timothy Lyons.   | 129 Luther Richardson, Edward Murdock.  |   | 210 Humphrey Connor.   |  | 45 Samuel Felch, Friend Ball, Thomas Bickford.       |  |  |  |
| 32 Charles E. Forristall.   | 75 William Foster.  |   |   | 211 Harry Pitkin.  |  | 46 Ephraim Gilman, Wm. Gray, Bailey Thomas.          |  |  |  |
| 33 Mrs. R. Jones, Henry Peck, George H. Allyn.                            | 76 Andrew Dunn, W. N. White.  |   |   | 212 John Donahoe.  |  | 47 Jeremiah Gilman, and several others.              |  |  |  |
| 34 Edward Pendergast.   | 77 Elisha Beaman, A. A. Ballou.   |   |   | 213 Grover S. Whitney.   |  | 48 Daniel Farrar, Sen., Moses Foskett.               |  |  |  |
| 35-3 David S. Roby, C. H. Vose, Mrs. A. Davis, Lewis Howe, Farquar McKay. |   |   |   | 214 Patrick Connor.  |  | 49 Polycrates Parks, Thomas Parks.                   |  |  |  |
|   |   |   |   | 215 Timothy Coffee.  |  | 50 Patrick Riley.                                    |  |  |  |
|   |   |   |   | 216 Edward Fitzgerald, Dennis Shay, Timothy Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Michael Reardon, Daniel Connor.  |  |  |  |  |  |



## CHAPTER XXVII.—THE VILLAGES.

“Sweet was the sound when oft at evening’s close,  
Up yonder hill the village murmur rose;  
There, as I passed with careless steps and slow,  
The mingling notes came softened from below.”

GOLDSMITH.

## THE CENTRE OR COMMON.

For fifty years after the incorporation of the town, there was no village within its bounds except at the Centre. The fact that it was the central point in the town, and the location of the meeting-house, secured a small collection of dwellings. The minister, the traders, one or more, at different times, the tavern keeper, the blacksmith and the doctor, with three or four farmers, made up the little settlement. There are now eight or ten houses on or near the Common. Probably there has not been a less number at any time during the last eighty years. In the days when numerous teams wended their way over the hill, and the tavern was haunted by the quidnuncs of the town, as well as by travelers; when two stores attracted purchasers, and all the cattle and horses were taken by turn to the blacksmith; when the room of the Justice of the Peace was thronged by the crowd who often met at the trial of some petty malefactor, and the doctor and minister, and even the lawyer, were sought by those needing advice and counsel, the old Centre was quite a busy place. But this is all changed now, and the quiet of a perpetual Sabbath reigns there. Yet it is a pleasant, healthful spot, and the time may come when men doing business in the villages will choose it for their home, and as a suitable place for the rearing of their children.

## THE VILLAGE, OR WINCHENDON.

What has in past times been known as Morse’s, or Winchendon, or North Village, is now styled either the Village, or Winchendon. The

latter is the proper designation, as it contains half the population of the town, has the only Post Office, all the stores and places of business but one or two, and is the real centre of the town. On the map accompanying this volume, it is styled WINCHENDON.

The first step in the history of this Village was the erection of a mill about one hundred and eight years ago. It was voted on the 30th of November, 1758, by the Proprietors, "that for encouragement, two dollars be granted on each original right, to any person or persons that shall undertake to build a *grist-mill* in said township, for ten years, and one hundred acres of land with the stream." Mr. Bartholomew Pearson or Parsons, father of Richard Parsons, put up the mill, where now stands the establishment of Goodspeed & Wyman. The dam was below the present site, the road crossed the dam, and the mill was not far from the shop of the Messrs. Loud. This was done between 1758 and 1762, because in June of the latter year, it was voted that "sixty days highways' work shall be done in building a bridge over the river by Mr. Parsons' mill-place." The work was "highway work;" in other words, carting earth on to the dam till it became wide enough for a road.

At the same time it was voted to build a road from Mr. Darling's place,—now Henry Keith's—and from the Boynton place,—now the Jed. Morse farm—to the mill; and also from the mill to the county road, or to the south end of the Common. Thus this mill was the *nucleus* of the Village. A dwelling house was erected where the paint shop now stands, close by the pond, on the east side of the road and the north side of the pond. From this starting point in 1760, we come down some forty-five years, and find seven houses in this neighborhood. 1. Where the former counting-room, now Weston's paint shop, stands; 2. Near Horace Wyman's; 3. Where the Congregational Church now stands; 4. Where the "Old Barracks" stood, now covered in part by A. B. Smith's store; 5. Where Mrs. Caswell lives, corner of Central and Spring streets, and two others, one of them at Dea. Hyde's. In 1831, there were sixteen houses, including that of Seth Tucker, Sen. The road to Mr. Tucker's was very winding, bending half-way down towards B. D. Whitney's works, then curving up by Mr. Tucker's, and going north, it took a lurch westward as far as thirty rods into the Hon. Elisha Murdock's lot; thence making for Mr. Nutting's. The road from Dea. Hyde's or Paul Boynton's, came as far as William Beaman's,

1880

1881

1882

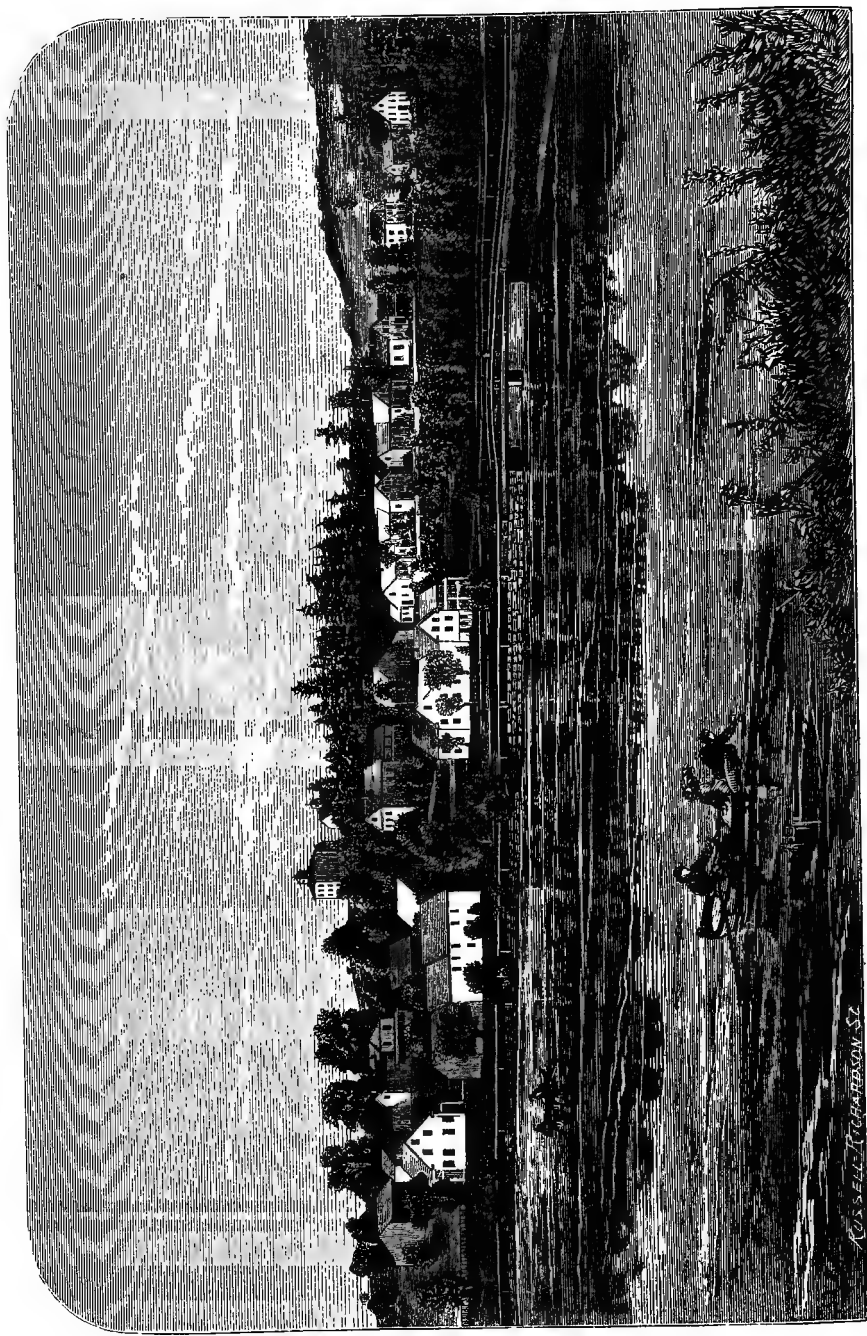
1883

1884

1885

1886

1887



ROSS & CO. NEW YORK

South Side View.

and then turned north into the Fitzwilliam road. The greater part of the business in the Village for twenty-five years preceding the above date, was done by three men, viz: Ephraim Murdock, Amasa Whitney and Isaac Morse. The latter owned the tannery and the hotel; Mr. Whitney carried on the woolen business; Esq. Murdock built houses, made sleighs, &c. All of them were large landholders. Their sons were now coming forward to take their places, and accelerate the growth of the place.

In 1843, at which time, the author first saw the Village, there were forty dwellings here, not including two or three which are now on the outskirts. Thus it appears that the increase from 1807 to 1843 had been about one house yearly. During the latter part of the period however the increase had been more rapid. Several houses had been erected which indicated increased attention to convenience and taste. The dwellings of Capt. E. Murdock, Jr., Dr. A. Godding, Hon. Elisha Murdock, and Col. William Murdock, were recent. Mr. C. R. Whitman's house was built in that year. At that time there was one Church in the Village—the Methodist—one hotel, two mill privileges, one school-room, three or four stores and shops, one piano, two shade trees,—one, the great elm in front of Esq. Murdock's; the other a small maple on Central street,—and the Academy, then in process of building. There were no streets, properly so called, but several roads leading to neighboring towns. There was but little shrubbery, and garden flowers were scarce. The yards and windows of four or five houses on Front street, with a few others, here and there, showed signs of taste and the love of natural beauty.

Since then the change has been going on gradually, at the average rate of increase of about eight new houses, though the increase has not been uniform. In some years only a house or two has been put up; in other years, a dozen or more. There are now in the Village, not far from two hundred and fifty dwelling houses, and fifteen hundred people. There are five houses of worship, one of them elegant and costly; three, neat and convenient, and the fifth about to give place to a new edifice of larger dimensions. Besides the Academy and the school-house, with two apartments, of the former second district, there are now the large and finely proportioned school-house in the north part of the Village, with space for four rooms, and the new school-house now in building, with four large school-rooms, a fine hall for examinations,

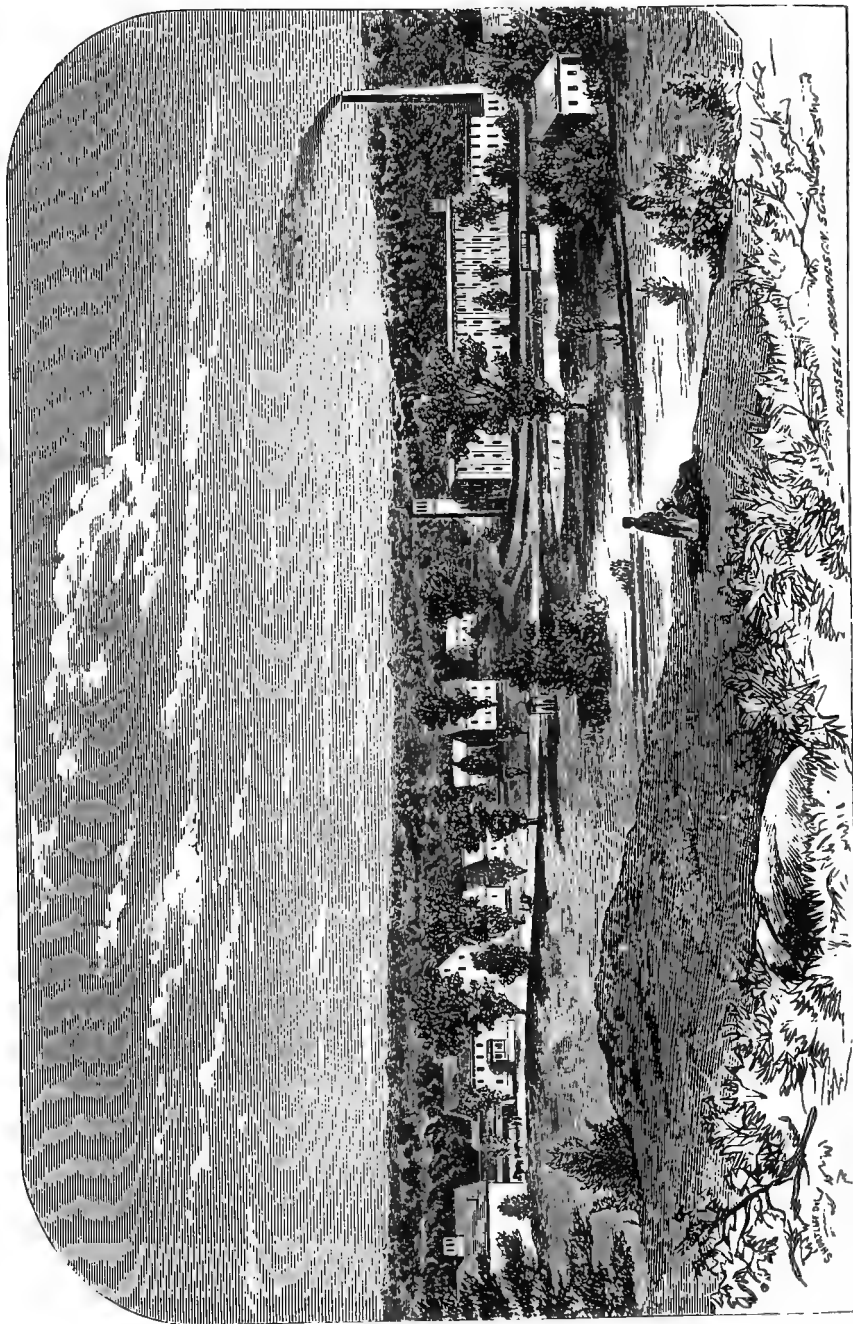
a recitation and an apparatus room. There are now three mill dams in place of two, with greatly increased power. There is a bank, and a town hall. There are twenty or more streets besides the old roads; shade trees, shrubbery, fruit trees, and flowers abound on every side, and the dwellings are becoming yearly more tasteful and elegant.\* Then there was a single piano; there are now not less than thirty, besides seraphines, cabinet organs and other musical instruments. Some twenty-five stores and shops, including dry goods, groceries, millinery, boots and shoes, hardware, drugs and medicines, clothing, harness, and jewelry, supply in part the wants of the Village and vicinity. Twenty-five years ago, the hill-side below Mr. Doane's slaughter-house was a dense tangle; now it is a continuation of one of the most beautiful crescent-shaped slopes to be seen in a summer's travel. Then the whole works and pond of Baxter Whitney, with the exception of the river, was covered with a forest; now there is a fine sheet of water, and numerous buildings, full of busy industry. Then the houses were neat and well-painted; now there are several which are superior in architecture and finish. The transformation, though gradual, seems to one who looks back, and takes it in at one view, almost incredible. But there are yet greater changes in the future. The opening of the Cheshire railroad in 1847, gave a new impulse to business. The opening of a cross road, and the connection with the Vermont and Massachusetts road, in the south part of the town, which are inevitable, will cause the Village to enter on a new career of prosperity. And when all the water power of the town shall be made available, there will be no cause but the want of enterprise on the part of the people, to prevent this place becoming one of the largest, busiest, and most beautiful towns in the Commonwealth.

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\* In the year 1851, there was a meeting one evening, in the North Congregational Church. A lecture on "Village Improvements" was delivered, in which the lecturer set forth the importance of planting shade and fruit trees and shrubbery; of beautifying the yards and gardens; and of having a regard for correct taste in architecture. A society was formed to carry out these suggestions, and though the Association never took any farther action, the members and other citizens, caught the spirit of improvement, and immediately began the work. Now the streets are lined, and the yards are filled with trees, and among all our neat, convenient dwellings, there is not one which is odd in shape, or which offends the eye, while several, as those of George Converse, Washington Whitney, James Whitman, Orlando Mason and E. Murdock, Jr., are fine specimens of village architecture. The latter especially, while elegant and imposing on the exterior, seems within to combine every convenience with cultivated taste.







N. D. WHITE.  
WM. SMITH.

WM. MANNING.  
W. CLOUGH.

**Spring Village.**

JOSEPH WHITE.  
GEORGE MORRILL.

JOSEPH WATSON.  
STORE.

RUSSELL - BERNARDSON - SCOTT - STONE

## SPRING VILLAGE AND WATERVILLE.

The origin of these villages has already been given. They are both capable of considerable increase. There is a plan under consideration for raising the dam of the Monomonauk some ten feet above its present level. This would probably double the power in the dry season of the year. Moreover, if the proposed railroad from Peterborough shall be brought through Spring Village, it will add to its prosperity. Besides the increase of business, the Spring would become a place of resort, since the facilities for promoting the health and enjoyment of visitors, are almost unrivalled.

WATERVILLE has greater capabilities, inasmuch as it receives water from both branches of Miller's river, and including Hydeville, has a greater fall. The river descends some sixty or seventy feet in the course of half a mile, and there are good building spots the whole distance. When the connection between the Village and the railroad in the south part of the town is made, Waterville will take a new start, and its three or four hundred souls will be multiplied.

NEW BOSTON, BULLARDVILLE, and ROBBINS or HARRISVILLE, contain each from half a dozen to a dozen houses. Having only a limited water power, there is no probability that either of them will ever increase like those situated on Miller's river. Perhaps the future will see a village at the MURDOCK mills, and also at the BUTLER place, as the power is great and easily available.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.—NOTEWORTHY EVENTS.

“Oh night,  
And storm, and darkness! ye are wondrous strong.”  
BYRON.

“Will all Neptune’s ocean wash this blood  
Clear from my hand? No, this my hand will rather  
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,  
Making this green one red.”  
SHAKESPEARE.

“A horrid spectre rises to my sight,  
Close by my side, and plain and palpable,  
In all good seeming and close circumstance,  
As man meets man.”  
JOANNA BAILLIE.

In this chapter, various events which almost defy classification, will be arranged under the following titles, viz: FROSTS, STORMS and TEMPESTS; CASUALTIES; FIRES; HOMICIDES; SUICIDES; SUPERSTITIONS, &c. Many of the facts are derived from Mr. Hyde; others from Dr. Whiton, and others still from various sources. Quite a number came under the author’s own observation.

### SECTION 1.—FROSTS, STORMS, TEMPESTS.

In 1752, there was a snow-storm in which Joshua Priest was frozen to death.

In 1755, the “great earthquake” shook all New England, and produced an extraordinary effect on the public mind. The few settlers in these woods felt the shock.

In 1774, there was a hurricane, moving from west to east which struck the meeting-house on Ashburnham hill so violently as to move it three or four feet from its foundations. It was furious in this town, though there is no record of serious damage.

The awful cold winter of 1780–81 has been referred to already.

On the 17th of May, 1794, there was a severe frost. The spring had been early, and vegetation was forward. Rye was headed, and apples were large as bullets. Everything was killed. This is one of the many facts which confirm the saying, that "all attempts at an early spring here will prove a failure."

In the summer of 1795, there was a violent tempest about sun-set. Dr. Whiton well remembered "the terrors of the scene." A wild commotion in the clouds, and a roar in the atmosphere, forewarned of its approach; thickening darkness came on fast; soon the hurricane and hail struck the buildings with great fury. The dwelling of Mr. Thornton Barrett was unroofed, and the furniture in the chamber scattered over adjacent fields; locks of wool blown from the chamber were found adhering to trees miles distant. Some barns were partially unroofed, sheds blown over, and a multitude of trees prostrated. This was specially severe on the road to Fitzwilliam, where fallen trees bore witness to the fury of the storm, many years afterwards. The following evening was of pitchy darkness, save when vivid flashes of lightning revealed for an instant the distant hills and forests. No one was killed, but many were frightened; some with fear that the day of judgment had come.

In the winter of 1798-9, the weather was extremely cold. The snow was very deep. It lay on the ground from the middle of November into April; in the woods, till the middle of May. The stage-sleigh passed through this town eighteen weeks successively.

In 1801, about the 20th of June, a severe frost cut down nearly all the grain, and growing crops.

There was a memorable northeasterly storm in February, 1802. It was furious and driving. The snow was dense like small hail. It fell to the depth of two feet. People thought that if it had been light, the depth would have been as great as in the "great snow-storm" of 1717, that is, six feet.

The spring of 1804 was cold and backward; hay was scarce, and the cattle were driven to browsing. Trees were felled for that purpose. They scarcely lived till grass grew.

In June, 1806, the total eclipse of the sun filled the inhabitants of Winchendon, in common with all who beheld it, with the profoundest feelings of admiration and awe.

In the same season, on a day when the Cavalry Company, under command of Capt. Phineas Whitney, paraded in this town, a fearful

thunder-storm arose. Some of the Co., while on the way home, took refuge in a tavern in Templeton. The electric fluid came down. Some twelve of them were thrown into a heap in the middle of the room, and two were killed. The points of their swords were melted.

In 1807, on the 30th and 31st of March, and the 1st of April, there was the heaviest fall of snow within memory. Rev. Mr. Pillsbury, and Dr. Whiton, then a young man, struggled through the snow, to the meeting-house, on the Sabbath, sometimes on the top of the wall. No one else was there, and they returned in the same way.

On the 9th of June, 1816, there was a fall of snow. I have heard the late Dea. Raymond say that apples and snow were together on the trees in his father's orchard. There were frosts at unusual times. The whole summer was cold. There was but little fruit, or corn, though English grain was good. It was called "poverty year."

The September gale—on the 16th—of this year, blew down many acres of timber in the westerly part of the town.

The next season was also cold, and but little pork was made. As mackerel were uncommonly abundant, this was styled "mackerel year."

From the last of May to the first of September, 1819, there were thunder-showers as often as every other day. On the afternoon of the Sabbath, August 20, the commotion of the elements was terrific. Clouds arose in all quarters of the heavens, and met together. All the artillery of the skies seemed to be in full play. Many buildings were struck by lightning, and consumed. In the evening, fires could be seen in various directions.

In 1821, September 9, there was a fearful hurricane in Athol and towns west of this. Fragments of trees and clothing were borne by the tempest to Winchendon. No damage was done here.

The winter of 1842-3, was noted for snow-storms. The snow came early, and did not go off until the last week in April. There were drifts in the woods in the middle of May. On the 12th of November, 1843, people rode in sleighs to the November election.

On the 22d of April, 1852, there was a great flood in Miller's river. There had been a fall of snow six or eight inches deep; this was followed by rain till the snow was almost ready to run; then a warm sun came out, and the water rushed down every hill-side into the small streams, which poured their tribute into the river. It was rapidly swol-

len above its banks, and roared along its bed with fearful violence. Men watched at the dams that night, and about one o'clock in the morning of the 22d, the ringing of the alarm bell roused the people. Baxter Whitney's dam was beginning to give way. At two the top of the old woolen factory dam went off, and the rush of waters carried off the Robbins, the Aldrich and the Hyde dams. About six P. M., Mr. Whitney's dam, and saw-mill, and the railroad bridge went down with a crash, and the *debris* borne by the rushing flood, swept away the causeway and bridge, on Spring street. The causeway was several feet under water. Next the bridge and dam by the woolen mill (now Goodspeed & Wyman's site) were taken up as a feather, and hurled down stream with frightful velocity. The accumulated waters and broken timbers rushed along, making a clean sweep of all the bridges and dams below. Standing on Prospect street, the writer had a clear view of the memorable scene. Following the rush towards Waterville, he heard the large rocks in the river dashing against each other with a loud noise, as they were bowled along by the flood. At the same time, all the bridges between the Village and the Ashburnham line, and the Butler mill-dam, were destroyed. This was the greatest and most destructive flood within the memory of the most aged inhabitants.

In 1853, on the 27th of August, there was a violent storm. At tea-time a thunder-storm came up; and there was quite a fall of rain. Suddenly there was a singular and fearful rumbling, such as is rarely heard, and which leads one instinctively to seek divine protection. Looking from the front door of his residence on Prospect street, the author saw that the village was shrouded in darkness, and that a fierce tempest was sweeping up the valley. It soon passed over, to the great relief of the shuddering people. The tornado first struck Waterville, doing much damage to trees, barns and houses, and then tore along up the valley of the river, as through a tunnel, and spreading out over the Village. Twenty trees in Dea. Hyde's orchard, and eight belonging to Joel Hyde were upturned. Many others were prostrated. Chimneys were blown down, three barns were unroofed, the horse-sheds at the Methodist meeting-house were demolished, and the spire of the Baptist meeting-house was thrown down.

The morning of January 11, 1859, was the coldest ever known here. The mercury in the thermometer fell to 38 degrees below zero.

The winter of 1865-6, was remarkable for the absence of snow-

storms. Whenever the clouds gathered, the temperature was a few degrees above the freezing point, and the moisture came down in rain. There was but about a fortnight sleighing all winter, and then the earth was only veneered with a thin crust.

The summer of 1868 has been as remarkable for extreme heat. There were a few very hot days in June. In the early part of July, the sun's rays came down with scorching heat. On the 5th, which was Sunday, the thermometer indicated from 95 to 104 degrees in the shade, over a large extent of country. The two next succeeding weeks, with the occasional exception of a day, were similar. Hundreds were cut down by sun-stroke in different parts of the land. Some were prostrated with the extreme heat, in this town, though none lost their lives.

#### SUDDEN DEATHS BY APOPLEXY, HEAT, &c.

In the night preceding the raising of the meeting-house, in 1792, Mr. Bill Hancock died in his bed.

In 1809, Bartholomew Stearns, Jr., was found dead in the road near the house of Capt. John Raymond. He had been reaping, became heated, went to the well and drank, and died on his return.

In November 1818, Enoch Stuart retired in health, but died in the night.

1819, July 1, David Goodridge, 2d, died suddenly in bed.

In 1823, Peter Parmenter was found dead in his bed.

1824, September 17, Abzina Cummings died suddenly.

On the 27th of January, 1829, Paul Stewart fell dead in or near his barnyard.

1831, December 16, Capt. Samuel Baldwin was found dead in his bed in the morning.

June 15, 1832, Andrew Benjamin was found dead, by his daughter, in the road near the house of Mr. Cromwell Fisher.

In this year, John R. Golding fell dead in his house, and an infant child of Lydia Golding died suddenly.

On the 22d of November, Isaac Grout, Jr., was found dead in the mowing land of Mr. Luke Rice. He had been missing through the night.

In 1834, Simon Wilder was found dead in his bed, and Mary Goddard died in a fit.



In 1837, Mrs. Tisdale Howard died very suddenly.

On the 22d of October, Mrs. John Arba Brooks died in a fit.

In 1840, a girl died on the road near Spring Village.

On the 26th of July, 1841, Mrs. Phinehas Parks was found dead near the door. She had stepped out to get some fuel.

In 1842, January 7, A child of Peter Thomas was found dead by its mother when she awoke in the night.

On the 21st of March, Dea. Luther Richardson died instantly in John Poor's mill yard. He was a very useful man in the church, in the schools, and in the community.

In this year, Mrs. Samuel Brown, wife of Samuel Brown, Sen., at the south end of the town, was found dead in her bed. So was Mrs. Carter, mother of Mrs. David Beaman. Jewett B. Darling was found dead in his bed in the day-time.

In 1843, May 14, Phinehas Elwin Parks died suddenly in bed. On the same day, Col. Benjamin Adams died suddenly. On the first Sabbath in May, he was at meeting to hear the writer's first sermon in Winchendon. Preaching the funeral sermon was a severe trial in his early ministry.

On the 19th of June, Capt. Joshua Stoddard, another of those whom curiosity led to hear the new minister, died very suddenly.

On the 11th of August, 1846, Mr. Enoch Wyman's wife died suddenly while at work in the house.

In 1852, January 7, Enoch Kidder, Esq., died of apoplexy.

1853, August 3, Benjamin Adams, Jr., died in an apoplectic fit.

In 1864, December 1, Mrs. Lucy Whitney, aged nearly 83 years, died in the morning before rising. She was stepmother of Hon. Giles H. Whitney, a gentlewoman with the ancient courtesy, whom everybody loved.

On the morning of the Sabbath, January 21, 1866, Mr. George Brown, a respected citizen, died suddenly, of apoplexy. The people heard of the event while on the way to Church. It produced universal solemnity and sorrow.

In 1867, November 5, Mrs. Keziah Evans died instantly of apoplexy. On the 18th of the same month, Mrs. Harriet W. Pierce, daughter of the late Amasa Whitney, died suddenly of apoplexy.

On the 9th of May 1868, about seven in the evening, Mr. Cal-

vin R. Whitman, fell and died instantly, of apoplexy, near his house. He was busily at work with a shovel. He died according to his desire, as he had often expressed the wish that he might depart in an instant. He had "put his house in order," and made every preparation for such an event, whenever it might come. He was a man of active temperament, large brain—weight 64 ounces—and strong, analytic mind. Nothing but over-cautiousness hindered him from taking the lead in business and in affairs generally. He was quick to speak, but slow and discreet in action. One who knew him intimately for twenty years and more, in sorrow and in joy, holds his memory in tender remembrance.

#### DEATHS BY ACCIDENTAL DROWNING.

In April, 1771, in the spring flood, William Oaks and Robert Mofat were drowned. This event has been spoken of on a preceding page. They were in a boat just below the bridge a mile beyond Waterville. The boat was upset, the river was high and rapid. They clung to a large, low stub, for a while. Mrs. Oaks saw them but could render them no help. No neighbors were near. The water was cold, and they became chilled till they could hold on no longer. The mother's agony, as she saw her boy and his companion swept away, no pen can record.

In July, 1781, a child of Samuel Stimson was drowned in a well, nearly opposite Mr. C. Fisher's, on the south side of the road, in the lot of Mrs. Connor.

In 1786, William Brown, son of David, was found dead in a well, on the place long occupied by William Brown, Esq., near the Paul Raymond farm. He was subject to fits, and it was supposed that he went to the well for water, fell in, and was drowned.

In 1818, July, Cyrus Partridge was drowned in Ashuelot river, at Hinsdale, N. H., and was brought the same day to the house of his father, in this town.

On Sunday, December 14, 1825, Henry Holden, aged 24, was returning home from the New Boston meeting-house, and while crossing the ice on Denison lake, broke through. As he went down the third time, he said: "I must die; Lord, have mercy on my soul."

In 1834, a child of Mr. ——— Capron, was drowned at Spring Village.

In 1837, a boy aged eleven years, was drowned at Spring Village.

On the first of July, 1843, Henry, son of Mr. Harry and Mrs. Minerva Pitkin, was drowned in the tannery mill-pond, while bathing. He was a bright boy. His funeral was attended in the Methodist Church, on Sabbath evening, when the scene was rendered doubly solemn by a heavy thunder-storm.

In 1846, August 2, a child of Mr. Moses Foskett was drowned.

On the 19th of November, 1849, Leander, son of Mr. Joel and Mrs. Lavina Hunt, was drowned in the pond near their house. He fell from the bridge.

On the 21st of August, 1851, Frederic P., a little son of Mr. Levi N. and Mrs. Calista P. Fairbanks, was drowned in Athol. The parents belonged here, and their affliction elicited the sympathy of many friends.

In 1860, February 27, Sarah Ann, a daughter of Mr. B. Talbot, was drowned a few rods above the causeway bridge.

On the 22d December, 1861, a son of Thomas Hughes was drowned.

Joseph H. Crowley, a little boy was drowned on the 2d of June, 1863.

In 1866, June 24, Pliny H. Tannant was drowned near Goodspeed & Wyman's dam.

On the 28th day of June, 1868, James B. Gardham, of St. John, Canada, was drowned above the railroad dam. Though a comparative stranger here, he was esteemed by those who knew him.

#### DEATHS BY FALLING TREES, &C.

The first case of this kind befel the most important man in town, in both Church and State, at the time, Dea. Richard Day. He was instantly killed by the falling of a tree, near the corner of the road northeast of Capt. G. Alger's. This was on the third of May, 1774.

May 19, 1784, John Chamberlin was killed by a falling tree, which he and his son had been cutting.

On the 10th of May, 1786, Uriah Crooks was fatally hurt by the falling of a stub, at a chopping *bee*. This was at the northeast corner of Denison lake. He survived but a few hours.

1791, in May, Jonathan Stimson, when ploughing on the Beaman farm, was struck by a tree blown down by the wind, and killed.

In 1833, January 14, Samuel Brown, Jr., was killed by the fall of a tree, near the southeast part of the Brown farm, where a monument

marks the spot. He was a brother of the late Wm. Brown, Esq., and father of the Rev. Samuel Watson Brown, recently deceased.

In 1834, Mary Day, daughter of Mr. Daniel Day, Sen., was killed by a falling tree. She and a young playmate, now Mrs. A. Bowker, were at a safe distance, but the choppers told them to run, when they started, the little Day girl fell, and was killed by a branch. This occurred just across Miller's river, and north of the Fry place.

September 2, 1836, Joseph Adams, son of Col. Adams, was killed at the Murdock mills, which he had sold, not long before, to Capt. Murdock. A log which he was hauling, swung round, and hitting him on the head, gave a mortal blow. He lived but a few hours. He was an enterprising man, pleasant in his family, and respected by his friends.

A falling tree killed Mr. Humphrey Harris, on the 13th of January, 1847.

#### DEATHS BY HORSES, TEAMS, &c.

Capt. Israel Whitcomb is often mentioned in the Records, near the close of the last century and the opening of the present. He was killed by the kick of a horse, in Fitzwilliam, November, 1804. He was found in the road by Esq. Murdock.

In 1811, Joseph Story of Fitchburg, was killed on the road just beyond Capt. Levi Stearns', by falling out of a chaise, and being run over by the wheels.

In November, 1814, Luke Knight was killed in a wagon, by the kick of a horse, on the road near where Mr. William Capron lives.

On the 14th of October, 1816, Thomas Wyman, Jr., was killed, it was supposed, by falling from a horse, and being dragged by the stirrup. He was found dead in the road near.

On the 6th of the following December, Thomas Wyman, Sen., who was deaf, was killed in Worcester, by a stage running over him in the dark.

In 1818, June 6, Silas Brown, eleven years old, came to his death by being run over by a cart loaded with gravel.

On the 30th of December, 1830, a boy named Elisha Fry, was killed by the falling of a cart body upon him, at the Elias Whitney place.

In 1834, July 13, Elizabeth Goodspeed was killed, a large loaded wagon passing over her head and neck. She, with others, was return-

ing from meeting in a wagon. In attempting to pass the loaded wagon, their vehicle was upset towards the wagon, and she was thrown under a wheel.

Joel Robbins, of Rindge, on the 18th of September, 1835, was killed near the Woodbury saw-mill, by a wagon.

In October, 1843, a little son of Mr. Newell and Mrs. Rebecca Wyman was killed by the kick of a horse.

Edson A. Parks, son of Mr. Austin Parks, was killed by the kick of a horse, on the 8th of January, 1866.

#### DEATHS BY BURNING.

In 1824, the widow Elizabeth Baldwin was found burnt to death, by the family, on returning from meeting on the Sabbath day. Nearly all her flesh was consumed.

In 1828, a child of a Mr. Lathrop came to its death by falling into a pot of hot fat.

In 1837, a child of Mr. Joel Hunt died in consequence of being scalded.

On the morning of the 5th of December, 1854, Mrs. Phebe H. Wyman, wife of Mr. Harvey Wyman, was burned to death. She was enfeebled by sickness, and being left a few minutes, it is supposed she approached the fire for some purpose, and fell in, and being unable to extricate herself, perished. She was a sensible, pious woman, and was greatly missed by her friends.

#### OTHER FATAL CASUALTIES.

In 1778, a traveller, while stopping at the Nichols tavern, was choked to death by a piece of meat.

1786, Mrs. Jonathan Smith had a child die in her arms while riding in a sleigh; probably smothered.

In 1830, a daughter of Mr. Lewis Robbins, named Maria, fell upon a revolving water-wheel, and was instantly killed.

On the 17th of October, 1833, Samuel Hartwell was found dead near a bridge, in the south-west part of the town. He was out in the dark, the evening before, and the supposition was that he fell from the bridge.

In 1834, February 5, a young man, Adams by name, working in

the factory at Spring Village, had his hand caught in a running belt, which injured him so as to cause his death.

October 15, 1840, a son of Mr. Edward Loud, named William, was killed by being caught in a belt, and thrown round a shaft.

On the 25th of March, 1846, a young man from New Salem, named Weeks, was killed by falling upon a water-wheel.

On the 2d of April, same year, a girl named Taggart, aged 16 years, from Sharon, N. H., was found dead, having been frozen, a little distance from the road, in the woods north from the school-house. She had been working in the cotton factory, but was missing in the previous November. For a time it was supposed that she had returned to her home.

In 1852, Oct. 29, Mr. Jason Goodale died in consequence of a fall.

March 21, 1860, Elisha R., son of Mr. Newell Wyman, ten years of age, while playing on a mow in the barn, slid on to an iron hay-hook, which entered the lower part of his body, and penetrated sixteen inches. It was impossible to extract it before the death of the lad, which occurred in a few hours. The little fellow knew that he must die, but he manifested the sweetest trust in his Saviour.

In 1862, December 29, Mrs. Nancy Robbins died literally of old age, being 101 years and 5 months old.

On the 2d of September, 1864, Wallace R., son of Mr. H. O. Clark, came to his death by an accident on the Wilmington & Baltimore railroad. His remains were brought here for burial. The event awakened deep sympathy for the afflicted family.

In 1865, on the 4th of April, Walter G. Bryant, son of Mr. Nathan Bryant, was killed by the bursting of a gun, near the house of Capt. Levi Greenwood, and a few rods from his father's door. He was an only child, and was greatly beloved by his parents, teachers and companions. He was eighteen years of age.

#### FIRES.

Fires were not common in the early years of the town, though there are traditions of an occasional case of the kind. Fires have been confined mainly to mills, shops and dry-houses. Three factories, two oil mills, one grist mill, a large barn and two large dry-houses, have been burned on the site of Goodspeed & Wyman. Some of the fires will be mentioned in chronological order.

1851, April 22. The shoe shop of Wm. Pollard, the Union store, the Post Office, and the stores and shops of N. H. Hand, Knapp & Beals, Joel Hunt, J. M. Claughlin and M. B. Felton, were burned to the ground.

December 19. The house of Ozro Hancock, and the store of Moses Hancock in Waterville, were burned.

1852, June 11. The large boarding-house and two dry-houses were burned at Murdock's mill.

August 20. Two barns, with considerable property belonging to the tavern stand, were consumed.

October 19. The store occupied by George S. Pollard, and the Odd Fellows hall, was much damaged by fire.

1853, January 23. The house of Messrs. Wheeler & Hayward, on the hill, was half consumed.

1854, August 12. The tub and pail shop of E. Murdock, Jr., occupied by William Beaman and Mr. Converse, was burnt.

November 17. Whitman & Parks' mill and pail shop, at Bullardville, were burnt to the ground.

1855. The large barn of the Winchendon Manufacturing Co., with hay and grain, was entirely consumed.

May 30. The large factory at Spring Village, was burned to the ground. Insured for \$30,000.

1856, May 27. The tannery was consumed.

November 21. E. Murdock & Co's pail shop at Waterville, was burned.

1857, May. The mill and pail and tub shop of Parks & Day, at Bullardville, were totally destroyed.

1858, October. The barn of Elisha Beaman, with all its contents, was burned.

1859, September 27. The woolen factory met its fate the third and last time.

1863, March 20. The foundry of B. D. Whitney, occupied by Elisha Beaman, was consumed.

The above were the principal fires during the last twenty years. The origin in most cases, was accident, or carelessness; in others, the public opinion was, that incendiaries had been at work. But no case of conviction for incendiarism has occurred.

## CASES OF SUICIDE.

The first instance of self-destruction occurred on the 12th of March, 1797, when a boy named Jonathan Moor, hung himself on a sleigh-tongue, in the barn of Lieut. Benjamin Hubbard, who then lived on what was afterwards known as Elias Whitney's farm. Inquiry elicits nothing to account for the act but the remark that "the boy was a witch-cat."

On the 29th of June, 1862, Miss Jerusha Dunham took her own life by hanging. She was naturally amiable and attractive, but was long afflicted with hereditary insanity.

In 1864, June 20, Miss Lorinda Phelps committed suicide by drowning.

In 1864, June 20, Miss Lorinda Phelps was found in the Kendall & Mason pond near Hydeville. It was supposed that, in a fit of depression, she had given up life in this mode.

## HOMICIDES.

On the 8th of September, 1800, a youth by the name of Stephen Bixby, was killed and horribly mangled with an axe, by Daniel Robbins, an insane man. This took place in or near a log house on land of Capt. Joseph Robbins. Robbins labored under the delusion that the end of the world was near, and that in order to its actual arrival, blood must be shed, and that God had set him apart to do the work. He chased his own brother, who was obliged to flee for his life. Men turned out armed with guns, pitchforks and other weapons, and captured him. He was put in prison, and confined for life. This was before the day of hospitals for the insane. Dr. Whiton says that boys were afraid to go after the cows, fearing lest Robbins would dart out from the bushes and kill them.

In 1861, on the 14th of September, Mrs. Betsey Page died from poison. At the same time, her two daughters, Miss Miranda Page and Mrs. Leander Hartwell, suffered, the former severely, the latter mildly, from the same dose. The case was this. Hartwell had married the youngest daughter, and lived on the place, having the care of a mother-in-law and a sister-in-law who were invalids. His wife was healthy. He obtained arsenic of the apothecary, on the plea that he wanted to kill rats. The poison was mixed in some hash prepared for breakfast.



The mother was fatally poisoned ; Miranda just escaped death ; Mrs. Hartwell partook of but little. It was clearly proved that Hartwell put the poison in the victuals, but he was cleared on the plea of insanity. He was kept in the insane hospital for a while, and then released. He lived with his wife till her death a year or two since. Many believed that the plea of insanity had no foundation.

A dark crime occurred a few years since. A large paper box was found floating on the pond in the Village, containing the tiny bodies of two infants. Whether they were born dead, or were smothered, or died from exposure, is not known. This was one of those cases of hidden guilt which make a judgment day a necessity.

In this connection, it is proper, if any allusion is made to the matter, to speak of a supposed case of homicide, or murder, which occurred many years since. The author has hesitated to relate the circumstances, lest injustice might be done to an innocent man ; but as he was considered guilty at the time, and is still by aged people, it will help to clear his memory, to state the case. Along before and after the beginning of the century, a man by the name of Eber Arnold, lived in the old Oaks house, now occupied by Mr. Townsend, beyond the bridge a mile from Waterville. He was a man of violent temper, and intemperate habits. A young man was working for him one season, with whom he became very angry. They were at work one day, in the meadow south of Miller's river, and when called to dinner, Arnold insisted that the young man should carry him on his back, across the stream. The youth contrived to stumble and throw the old man into the water. The latter was in a towering passion, and threatened to kill the roguish fellow. As evening came on, the young man left the house, and went up the road to the house of Mr. Phineas Parks. Soon Arnold came along, but the young man left the house by the back door before his pursuer entered. He disappeared in the dark towards the woods southwest of the house. Arnold wore an old cloak, and had a rusty old sword underneath it. He started after the young man, and the story is, the latter was never seen afterwards. In after years it was observed that Arnold, in abstracted moods, talked as if conscious of some dark and secret crime. It is the old story of Eugene Aram. A watcher with him when sick, related how he was disturbed in his dreams and his waking hours. He spoke of the hands that were not covered

up, and of other things, as if he had had a struggle with his victim. The impression made on the mind of his attendant was, that Arnold was cognizant of the cause of the young man's absence. The result of all the circumstances was a conviction in many minds that he was guilty, either of murder, or of homicide in a fight. It is gratifying to be able to state that those suspicions probably were unfounded. A citizen of this town, while traveling a few years since in Vermont, staid over night at the house of a sister of the missing man, and she said that the family did not believe that her brother was killed by Arnold. Whether they had heard from him, or not, is not known, but they harbored no suspicions of his murder. Thus a stain is taken from the memory of Arnold, and also from the fair fame of the town.

#### SUPERSTITION AND WITCHCRAFT.

The town traditions are not rich in cases of witchcraft and apparitions, though doubtless the early settlers partook of the spirit of the times, when every neighborhood had its stories of ghosts. Even to this day there are those who believe in the supernal or infernal knowledge of witches, and there are those living who have resorted to such hags to get information of lost cattle, and of the location of drowned bodies. Here and there one has been weak enough to seek for similar intelligence from spirit rappers, though the town has been remarkably free from such delusions.

About 1790, according to Dr. Whiton, there was a supposed case of witchcraft in this town. The members of a family living on the Bigelow place in the east part of the town, were alarmed by what they deemed supernatural noises, and by stones thrown against the house by invisible hands. The disturbance rose to such a pitch, and the family were so alarmed, that they called in the minister, Mr. Brown, to lay the spirit, check-mate the witch, exorcise the foul fiend, or remove the cause of disturbance, whatever it might be. Mr. Brown was never inclined to say much about the matter, but it was supposed that he considered the noises to be the work of human cunning.

In 1814, an aged inhabitant died. Some time after, his son went to the old burying-yard to put up gravestones. He related that his father appeared to him, and religiously believed that it was a real case of ghostly apparition. It does not appear that the departed had anything

to communicate that would justify taking such a journey ; a circumstance often noticed in relation to alleged spiritualistic messages from the unseen world.

It must be confessed that this section upon superstitions is very meager, but the author is glad that there is nothing farther of this nature to relate. The more enlightened a people are in their religious convictions, the better instructed they are in Scriptural truth, the more free are they from dark and degrading superstitions.

## CHAPTER XXIX.—LIST OF TOWN OFFICERS.

“Honor and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part,—there all the honor lies.”

POPE.

### LIST OF TOWN OFFICERS.

In the following list will be found the names of the principal town officers from the year 1766. The first column, headed “Moderators, &c.,” contains the names of the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, for each year, and always in that order of sequence.

| YEAR. MODERATORS, ETC.                                       | SELECTMEN.   | ASSESSORS.    |
|--|--|---------------|
| 1766. Ephraim Boynton,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.       | Theos. Mansfield,<br>Richard Day,<br>Abel Wilder.      | No Assessors. |
| 1767. Theos. Mansfield,<br>Theos. Mansfield,<br>Richard Day. | Theos. Mansfield,<br>Joseph Boynton,<br>Silas Whitney. | “             |
| 1768. Theos. Mansfield,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.      | Abel Wilder,<br>Seth Oaks,<br>Jonathan Stimson.        | “             |
| 1769. Theos. Mansfield,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.      | Abel Wilder,<br>Seth Oaks;<br>Jonathan Stimson.        | “             |
| 1770. Theos. Mansfield,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.      | Abel Wilder,<br>Seth Oaks,<br>John Boynton.            | “             |
| 1771. Richard Day,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.           | Richard Day,<br>John Cheney,<br>Thomas Sawyer.         | “             |
| 1772. John Cheney,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Richard Day.           | Abel Wilder,<br>John Boynton,<br>Dudley Perley.        | “             |
| 1773. Richard Day,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Moses Hale.            | Richard Day,<br>Amos Merriam,<br>John Homer.           | “             |

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.                                   | SELECTM. N.   | ASSESSORS.   |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 1774. | Seth Oaks,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Moses Hale.          | Abel Wilder,<br>Levi Nichols,<br>Abner Hale,<br>Wm. Whitney,<br>Eli Smith.              | No Assessors.  |
| 1775. | Moses Hale,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Moses Hale.         | Abel Wilder,<br>Levi Nichols,<br>John Boynton,<br>David Poor,<br>Gideon Fisher.         | Abel Wilder,<br>Moses Hale,<br>Thomas Kimball.         |
| 1776. | Moses Hale,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Moses Hale.         | Abel Wilder,<br>William Whitney.<br>Joseph Boynton,<br>Eli Smith,<br>James Murdock.     | No Assessors.  |
| 1777. | Thomas Kimball,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Amos Merriam.   | Abel Wilder,<br>John Boynton,<br>Wm. Whitney,<br>Eli Smith,<br>Amos Merriam.            | Selectmen.   |
| 1778. | Moses Hale,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Abel Wilder.        | Moses Hale,<br>Miles Putnam,<br>Daniel Goodridge,<br>Joseph Bacon,<br>Abner Curtiss.    | Selectmen.   |
| 1779. | Benjamin Brown,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Abel Wilder.    | Amos Merriam,<br>Ebenezer Sherwin,<br>Solomon Bigelow,<br>Seth Oaks,<br>Samuel Noyes.   | Amos Merriam,<br>Ebenezer Sherwin,<br>Solomon Bigelow. |
| 1780. | Dr. Israel Whiton,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Abel Wilder. | Abel Wilder,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benjamin Brown,<br>Samuel Stone,<br>Francis Bridge. | Abel Wilder,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>Benjamin Brown.     |
| 1781. | Ebenezer Sherwin,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Benj. Brown.  | Amos Merriam,<br>Joshua Gale,<br>Bill Hancock,<br>Paul Boynton,<br>John Day.            | Amos Merriam,<br>Joshua Gale,<br>Bill Hancock.         |
| 1782. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Abel Wilder,<br>Benj Brown.       | Amos Merriam,<br>Sam'l Crosby, Esq.,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Edward Withington.             | Amos Merriam,<br>Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood.        |

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.                                  | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.   |
|-------|---|---|--|
| 1783. | Moses Hale,<br>Benj. Brown,<br>Moses Hale.        | Amos Merriam,<br>Sam'l Crosby,<br>Benj. Brown,<br>David Foster,<br>Daniel Hubbard.            | Amos Merriam,<br>Sam'l Crosby,<br>Benj. Brown.       |
| 1784. | Moses Hale,<br>Benj. Brown,<br>Amos Merriam.      | Benj. Brown,<br>Samuel Prentice,<br>Samuel Litch,<br>James Steel,<br>James Cooledge.          | Benj. Brown,<br>Sam'l Prentice,<br>Sam'l Litch.      |
| 1785. | Abel Wilder,<br>Benj. Brown,<br>Amos Merriam.     | Benj. Brown,<br>Sam'l Prentice,<br>Sam'l Litch,<br>James Steel,<br>James Cooledge.            | Benj. Brown,<br>Sam'l Prentice,<br>Sam'l Litch.      |
| 1786. | Moses Hale,<br>Benj. Brown,<br>Amos Merriam.      | Benj. Brown,<br>Sam'l Prentice,<br>Sam'l Crosby, Esq.,<br>John Burr,<br>Levi Moor.            | Benj. Brown,<br>Sam'l Prentice,<br>Sam'l Crosby.     |
| 1787. | Sam'l Prentice,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Amos Merriam. | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Daniel Heywood.                       | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart. |
| 1788. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Moses Hale.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Daniel Hubbard,<br>Paul Boynton.      | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart. |
| 1789. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Moses Hale.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Daniel Hubbard,<br>Paul Boynton.      | Amos Heywood,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Abiel Buttrick. |
| 1790. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Moses Hale.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Paul Boynton,<br>Ebenezer Richardson. | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart. |
| 1791. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Moses Hale.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Paul Boynton,<br>Ebenezer Richardson. | Amos Heywood,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Abiel Buttrick. |

| YEAR.. | MODERATORS, ETC.                                  | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.  |
|--------|---|---|---|
| 1792.  | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Sam'l Crosby,<br>Moses Hale.     | Samuel Crosby,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Paul Boynton,<br>Ebenezer Richardson.<br>Desire Tolman.  | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Paul Boynton.     |
| 1793.  | Sam'l Prentice,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>John Burr.    | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart,<br>Peter Robinson,<br>Amos Hale.         | Amos Heywood,<br>Abiel Buttrick,<br>Jeremiah Stuart.  |
| 1794.  | Moses Hale,<br>Moses Hale,<br>Sam'l Prentice.     | Moses Hale,<br>Desire Tolman,<br>Paul Boynton,<br>Ezra Hide,<br>Benjamin Wilder.              | Moses Hale,<br>Desire Tolman,<br>Paul Boynton.        |
| 1795.  | Amos Heywood,<br>Moses Hale,<br>Levi Moor.        | Moses Hale,<br>Desire Tolman,<br>Benjamin Wilder,<br>Jacob Wales,<br>Thomas Greenwood.        | Moses Hale,<br>Desire Tolman,<br>Benj. Wilder.        |
| 1796.  | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Levi Moor.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Benj. Wilder,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr.,<br>Thomas Wilder,<br>Phinehas Whitney. | Amos Heywood,<br>Benj. Wilder,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr. |
| 1797.  | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Levi Moor.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Benj. Wilder,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr.,<br>Phinehas Whitney,<br>Jonas Bruce.   | Amos Heywood,<br>Benj. Wilder,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr. |
| 1798.  | Desire Tolman,<br>Moses Hale,<br>Amos Heywood.    | Moses Hale,<br>Ezra Hide,<br>Amasa Brown,<br>Benj. Hubbard,<br>Levi Heywood.                  | Moses Hale,<br>Amasa Brown,<br>Ezra Hyde.             |
| 1799.  | Desire Tolman,<br>Sam'l Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood.  | Samuel Crosby,<br>Ezra Hyde,<br>Desire Tolman,<br>Thomas Graton,<br>Benj. Hubbard.            | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Ezra Hyde,<br>Desire Tolman.         |
| 1800.  | Desire Tolman,<br>Samuel Crosby,<br>Amos Heywood. | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Thomas Graton,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Jacob B. Woodbury,<br>Benj. Adams.   | Sam'l Crosby,<br>Thomas Graton,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.  |

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.   | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.   |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 1801. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Levi Moor.            | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr.,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Isaac Noyes.   | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Sam'l Prentice, Jr. |
| 1802. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Samuel Prentiss.      | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Sam'l Prentiss, Jr.,<br>Benjamin Hubbard,<br>Abel Jones. | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.<br>Sam'l Prentiss, Jr.  |
| 1803. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Samuel Prentiss.      | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Thomas Greenwood,<br>Samuel Brown,<br>Hananiah Whitney.  | Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,<br>Thos. Greenwood.    |
| 1804. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.     | Amos Heywood,<br>Thomas Greenwood,<br>Hananiah Whitney.   | Amos Heywood,<br>Thos. Greenwood,<br>Han'h Whitney.        |
| 1805. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond.         | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Sam'l Brown,<br>Hananiah Whitney.  | Amos Heywood,<br>Sam'l Prentiss, Jr.,<br>Amos Goodhue.     |
| 1806. | Desire Tolman,<br>Amos Heywood,<br>Paul Raymond.         | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Samuel Brown,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>George Coffin,<br>Timothy Hancock.    | Amos Heywood,<br>Han'h Whitney,<br>Amos Goodhue.           |
| 1807. | Jacob B. Woodbury,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Thomas Graton. | Paul Raymond,<br>James Raymond,<br>David Beaman,<br>Daniel Day,<br>Thomas Knowlton.             | Paul Raymond,<br>Phinehas Whitney,<br>Nathaniel Holman.    |
| 1808. | Desire Tolman,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Thomas Graton.     | Paul Raymond,<br>James Raymond,<br>David Beaman,<br>Isaac Morse,<br>Abijah Pierce.              | Paul Raymond,<br>James Raymond,<br>David Beaman.           |
| 1809. | Paul Raymond,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Thomas Graton.      | Paul Raymond,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>Sam'l Brown,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Asa Perly.                | Sam'l Prentiss,<br>John McElwain,<br>Isaac Morse.          |
| 1810. | Amos Heywood,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.        | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Asa Perly.  | Paul Raymond,<br>Moses Hale, Jr.,<br>John McElwain.        |



| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.  | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.  |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1811. | Paul Raymond,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.         | Isaac Morse,<br>Thos. Greenwood,<br>Sam'l Brown,<br>George Coffin,<br>Asa Hale.       | Paul Raymond,<br>Nathaniel Holman,<br>John McElwain.    |
| 1812. | Eph'm Murdock,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.         | Isaac Morse,<br>Thomas Greenwood,<br>George Coffin,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Amasa Whitney.    | Samuel Prentiss,<br>Paul Raymond,<br>John McElwain.     |
| 1813. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.          | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>George Coffin,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Amasa Whitney. | Isaac Morse,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>William Tolman.      |
| 1814. | Isaac Morse,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.           | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>George Coffin,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Amasa Whitney. | Paul Raymond,<br>Isaac Morse,<br>John McElwain.         |
| 1815. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.          | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Asa Perly,<br>Israel Whitcomb,<br>Sam'l Noyes.      | Paul Raymond,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Isaac Morse.       |
| 1816. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Benj. Adams.          | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Israel Whitcomb,<br>Samuel Noyes,<br>David Beaman.  | Paul Raymond,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>Jacob Woodbury.     |
| 1817. | Horatio G. Newcomb,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney. | Thomas Greenwood,<br>Asa Hale,<br>Israel Whitcomb,<br>Sam'l Noyes,<br>David Beaman.   | Isaac Morse,<br>Jacob Woodbury,<br>Moses Hale.          |
| 1818. | H. G. Newcomb,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Israel Whitcomb,<br>Asa Perly,<br>Gideon Balcom,<br>Levi Brooks,<br>Moses Hale.       | Moses Hale,<br>Horatio G. Newcomb,<br>Jacob Woodbury.   |
| 1819. | Israel Whitcomb,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.    | Israel Whitcomb,<br>Gideon Balcom,<br>Daniel Henshaw.                                 | Paul Raymond,<br>Sam'l Prentiss,<br>James McElwain, Jr. |

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.  | SELECTMEN.   | ASSESSORS.   |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 1820. | H. G. Newcomb,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.    | Gideon Balcom,<br>Asa Hale,<br>William Tolman.                                       | Paul Raymond,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>James McElwain, Jr. |
| 1821. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Benj. Adams.                                       | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Benj. Adams.           |
| 1822. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Benj. Adams.                                       | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Benj. Adams.           |
| 1823. | Israel Whitecomb,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney. | Israel Whitecomb,<br>James McElwain,<br>Paul Raymond, Jr.,                           | Isaac Morse,<br>Jacob Woodbury,<br>Sam'l Prentiss.       |
| 1824. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Sam'l Prentiss.                                    | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Sam'l Prentice.        |
| 1825. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Isaac Morse,<br>Eph'm Murdock,<br>Israel Whitecomb.                                  | Isaac Morse,<br>Jacob Wales,<br>Israel Whitecomb.        |
| 1826. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Benj. Adams,<br>William Brown,<br>Jacob Woodbury.                                    | Benj. Adams,<br>William Brown,<br>Jacob Woodbury.        |
| 1827. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,<br>Amasa Whitney.      | Benj. Adams,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Jacob Woodbury.                                 | Benj. Adams,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Jacob Woodbury.     |
| 1828. | Isaac Morse,<br>Samuel Prentiss,*<br>Amasa Whitney.     | Isaac Morse,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Luke Parks.                                     | Isaac Morse,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Jacob Woodbury.     |
| 1829. | Jacob Wales,<br>Isaac Morse,<br>Benj. Adams.            | Isaac Morse,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Luke Parks.                                     | Isaac Morse,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Luke Parks.         |
| 1830. | Foxwell N. Thomas,<br>Joshua Smith,<br>Benj. Adams.     | William Brown,<br>Edward Loud,<br>Henry Greenwood,<br>Jacob Wales,<br>Reuben Harris. | Jacob Wales,<br>James McElwain,<br>William Tolman.       |
| 1831. | Jacob Wales,<br>Joshua Smith,<br>Benj. Adams.           | William Brown,<br>Henry Greenwood,<br>Jacob Wales.                                   | James McElwain,<br>Edward Loud,<br>Jacob Wales.          |
| 1832. | Elisha Gregory,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Benj. Adams.     | Henry Greenwood,<br>Edward Loud,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr.                                 | James McElwain,<br>Thomas Knowlton,<br>Mark Whitecomb,   |
| 1833. | Mark Whitecomb,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Benj. Adams.     | Benj. Adams,<br>Israel Whitecomb,<br>Henry Greenwood,                                | James McElwain,<br>George Alger,<br>William Brown.       |

\* Died October 13. Joshua Smith served the remainder of the year.

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.   | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.  |
|-------|--|---|---|
| 1834. | Reuben Harris,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney.   | William Brown,<br>Isaac Morse,<br>Levi Greenwood.         | Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>William Brown,<br>George Alger.    |
| 1835. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney.     | William Brown,<br>Isaac Morse,<br>Levi Greenwood,         | James McElwain,<br>Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>George Alger.   |
| 1836. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney.     | Isaac Morse,<br>Levi Greenwood,<br>Elisha Beaman.         | Webster Whitney,<br>Benj. Adams,<br>George Alger.         |
| 1837. | Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Isaac Morse.  | Levi Greenwood,<br>Mark Whitcomb,<br>Reuben Vose.         | Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>James McElwain,<br>Levi Parks.     |
| 1838. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Isaac Morse.     | Levi Greenwood,<br>Mark Whitcomb,<br>Reuben Vose.         | James McElwain,<br>Levi Parks,<br>William B. Whitney.     |
| 1839. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr.  | Mark Whitcomb,<br>Henry Greenwood,<br>John Forristall.    | Levi Parks,<br>William B. Whitney,<br>Ezra Porter.        |
| 1840. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr.      | Henry Greenwood,<br>John Forristall,<br>Webster Whitney.  | Levi Parks,<br>James McElwain,<br>Webster Whitney.        |
| 1841. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr.      | Henry Greenwood,<br>John Forristall,<br>Webster Whitney.  | Levi Parks,<br>James McElwain,<br>Moses Hancock.          |
| 1842. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr., | Henry Greenwood,<br>Levi Parks,<br>Webster Whitney.       | Levi Parks,<br>Moses Hancock,<br>Levi Greenwood.          |
| 1843. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr.  | Levi Parks,<br>Henry Greenwood,<br>Webster Whitney.       | Moses Hancock,<br>Eph. W. Weston,<br>Levi Greenwood.      |
| 1844. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. Murdock, Jr.  | Webster Whitney,<br>Levi Raymond,<br>Eph. W. Weston.      | Levi Greenwood,<br>Eph. W. Weston,<br>Moses Hancock.      |
| 1845. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>C. R. Whitman.   | Eph. W. Weston,<br>John Cutter,<br>Moses Hancock.         | Eph. W. Weston,<br>Joseph Porter,<br>George Brown.        |
| 1846. | Calvin R. Whitman,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>C. R. Whitman. | Webster Whitney,<br>Henry Greenwood,<br>Eph. Murdock, Jr. | Ezra Porter,<br>Jacob Woodbury,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr.       |
| 1847. | E. Murdock, Jr.<br>Webster Whitney.<br>C. R. Whitman.    | Elisha Beaman,<br>Harvey Wyman,<br>Levi Raymond.          | Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>Moses Hancock,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr. |

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.  | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.   |
|-------|---|---|--|
| 1848. | Milton S. Morse,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>C. R. Whitman.  | Elisha Beaman,<br>Harvey Wyman,<br>Levi Raymond.              | Milton S. Morse,<br>Eph'm W. Weston,<br>Ezra Porter.     |
| 1849. | Milton S. Morse,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. W. Weston.   | Levi Greenwood,<br>Oliver Adams,<br>Grover S. Whitney.        | Ezra Porter,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Lincoln Balcom.          |
| 1850  | Elisha Murdock,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>E. W. Weston.    | Webster Whitney,<br>Eph'm Murdock, Jr.,<br>Grover S. Whitney. | Ezra Porter,<br>Elisha Murdock,<br>Ezra Porter.          |
| 1851. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Benj. R. Day.   | Moses Hancock,<br>Nelson D. White,<br>Oliver Adams.           | E. W. Weston,<br>Moses Hancock,<br>Ezra Porter.          |
| 1852. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Benj. R. Day.   | Moses Hancock,<br>Nelson D. White,<br>Oliver Adams.           | Ezra Porter,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr.,<br>Calvin R. Whitman.  |
| 1853. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.      | Oliver Adams,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr.,<br>Levi Parks.             | Seth Tucker,<br>C. R. Whitman,<br>Edwin Parks.           |
| 1854. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.          | Oliver Adams,<br>Maynard Partridge,<br>David Caswell.         | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Charles W. Bigelow,<br>Amasa Whitney.  |
| 1855. | John Cutter,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.          | Maynard Partridge,<br>John Cutter,<br>Joshua B. Sawyer.       | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Edwin Parks,<br>Seth Tucker, Jr.       |
| 1856. | Gilman B. Parker,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.     | Webster Whitney,<br>Orlando Mason,<br>Seth Tucker.            | Seth Tucker,<br>Calvin R. Whitman,<br>Bethuel Ellis.     |
| 1857. | E. Murdock, Jr.,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.      | Webster Whitney,<br>Orlando Mason,<br>George Brown.           | Calvin R. Whitman,<br>Bethuel Ellis,<br>Wm. L. Woodcock. |
| 1858. | Giles H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.     | Webster Whitney,<br>Orlando Mason,<br>Oliver Adams.           | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Elisha Beaman,<br>Seth Tucker.         |
| 1859. | Giles H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.     | Webster Whitney,<br>Orlando Mason,<br>Oliver Adams.           | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Elisha Beaman,<br>J. H. Fairbank.      |
| 1860. | Giles H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>B. R. Day.*    | Oliver Adams,<br>J. B. Sawyer,<br>Luke Hale.                  | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Elisha Beaman.         |
| 1861. | Giles H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Wm. Brown, 2d. | Oliver Adams,<br>J. B. Sawyer,<br>George B. Raymond.          | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Charles D. Brown.      |

\* Resigned in August, when William Brown, 2d, was appointed.

| YEAR. | MODERATORS, ETC.  | SELECTMEN.  | ASSESSORS.  |
|-------|---|---|---|
| 1862. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>John H. Fairbank. | Oliver Adams,<br>J. B. Sawyer,<br>George B. Raymond.  | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Charles D. Brown. |
| 1863. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>John H. Fairbank. | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Geo. B. Raymond,<br>William Beaman. | Selectmen.  |
| 1864. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>John H. Fairbank. | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Geo. B. Raymond,<br>William Beaman. | "   |
| 1865. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Anson B. Smith.   | Geo. B. Raymond,<br>John D. Howard,<br>M. B. White,   | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Wm. Beaman.       |
| 1866. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>Anson B. Smith.   | Bethuel Ellis,<br>William Beaman,<br>Wm. L. Woodcock. | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Wm. Beaman,<br>Wm. L. Woodcock.   |
| 1867. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>A. B. Smith.      | Bethuel Ellis.<br>William Beaman,<br>Wm. L. Woodcock. | Selectmen.  |
| 1868. | G. H. Whitney,<br>Webster Whitney,<br>A. B. Smith.      | Bethuel Ellis,<br>Seth Tucker,<br>Edward Loud, Jr.    | "   |

## REPRESENTATIVES.

The following named gentlemen have represented the town in the General Court in the years annexed to their names. In some years there was no choice. In other years there were two representatives. Since 1858 this town has alternated with Ashburnham in the selection of a candidate.

|                  |                      |                    |                   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Bradish,  | 1776, 1777.          | Israel Whitcomb,   | 1837.             |
| Abel Wilder,     | 1780-85.             | Elisha Murdock,    | 1838, 40, 48, 51. |
| Moses Hale,*     | 1786-1799.           | Elisha Beaman,     | 1841.             |
| Samuel Prentiss, | 1800, 1812-16.       | Henry Greenwood,   | 1842.             |
| William Whitney, | 1803, 1805-8.        | Wareham Rand,      | 1843-45.          |
| Israel Whiton,   | 1809-11.             | Moses Hancock,     | 1849.             |
| Daniel Henshaw,  | 1817.                | Alvah Godding,     | 1850.             |
| H. G. Newcomb,   | 1820.                | John L. Reed,      | 1854.             |
| Isaac Morse,     | 1823, 25, 34, 38.    | Maynard Partridge, | 1855.             |
| Samuel Simonds,  | 1824.                | Jacob B. Harris,   | 1856, 57.         |
| Reuben Hyde,     | 1827.                | William Murdock,   | 1859.             |
| William Brown,   | 1830-32, 34, 36, 39. | Nelson D. White,   | 1861.             |
| William Dunbar,  | 1833.                | G. H. Whitney,     | 1863, 65.         |
| Jacob Wales,     | 1835, 36.            | W. N. White,       | 1867.             |
| C. R. Whitman,   | 1835.                |                    |                   |

\*Not every year.

## SENATORS.

Abel Wilder was senator from 1786 to 1792.

Elisha Murdock in the years 1852 and 1853.

Horatio G. Newcomb was senator after leaving the town.

Giles H. Whitney, before becoming a resident.

## DELEGATES.

Abel Wilder was delegate to the Convention of 1779-80, which formed the Constitution of the State.

Moses Hale to the Convention which adopted the national Constitution, in 1788.

Samuel Prentiss, Jr., to the Convention of 1820, which revised the State Constitution.

Abijah P. Marvin, to the Constitutional Convention of 1853.

## OTHER OFFICERS.

The following gentlemen have held office under the state or national governments :

**JUSTICES.** Samuel Crosby, Ephraim Murdock, Isaac Morse, Mark Whitcomb, A. W. Buttrick, Edwin S. Merrill, Giles H. Whitney, L. W. Pierce, and Bethuel Ellis, Esqs., have served as justices of the peace. The latter has been trial justice. Others have held the commission.

**SHERIFF.** Joseph S. Watson has been deputy sheriff a long term of years.

**POSTMASTERS.** Samuel Crosby, in 1795 ; Amos Goodhue, in 1806 ; Daniel Henshaw, Mark Whitcomb, E. W. Weston, and E. S. Merrill.

**CONGRESSMEN.** Hon. Artemas Hale, Hon. William B. Washburn, and Hon. Carter Wilder, natives of the town, (except the last, who lived here in childhood and youth,) have been in Congress ; the first from the Old Colony, the second from the ninth district, and the last from Kansas.

## CHAPTER XXX.—BIOGRAPHIC.

“The clouds may drop down titles and estates,  
Wealth may seek us—but wisdom must be sought.”  
YOUNG.”

This chapter must, of necessity, be of a miscellaneous character. In it will be included the names, 1. Of all the professional men of the town; 2. Of all College graduates; 3. Of those who—though born here—have followed a profession elsewhere; and 4. Of several men prominent in business or in some other respect.

## SECTION 1.—CLERGYMEN.

The names of these have been mentioned so often, and their characters presented so fully, in the preceding chapters, that it would be superfluous to give them again in this connection.

## SECTION 2.—LAWYERS.

The first resident lawyer of whom we have any knowledge, was BENJAMIN BRIDGE, who came hither in 1796, from Worcester. He found little encouragement, and did not long remain. His health was not good, and he died not long after his departure. It is said that his chi-rography was very beautiful.

SAMUEL THATCHER succeeded him. He was a graduate, probably, of Harvard. The tradition is that he was a man of highly respectable talents, but that he was so discouraged here as to say that he would never bring up a son to College. He left in a few years and settled in Maine, where he was prospered in his profession, and was sent to Congress. It is supposed that he became convinced, by success, of the value of education. A distinguished lawyer of this name, recently died at an advanced age, in Maine.

DANIEL HENSHAW opened a law office here as early as 1809. He belonged to the Henshaw family, of Leicester. He was a man of tal-

ents and education. Though not fitted to push his way to distinction, he had abilities sufficient to perform well the duties to which the public might call him. His influence was always in favor of education, good morals and religion. He was on the school committee several years, was clerk of the first Church, and represented the town in the General Court in the year 1817. After a residence of fifteen or twenty years, he left town and resided at various places, as Lynn, Salem and Boston. For a time he was editor of a paper in Lynn, and boldly advocated the cause of Temperance and of Freedom, when they were unpopular. At one time he was obliged to go armed. He was one of the first in the inauguration of Post Office reform. Mr. Henshaw wielded a ready, vigorous and elegant pen, and wrote much for the press. At one time he had thoughts of writing the History of Winchendon, but if he made any collections for that purpose, it has not been the good fortune of the writer to see them. In his old age, he visited Winchendon often, and seemed very much to enjoy renewed intercourse with former friends.

HORATIO GATES NEWCOMB was in town in 1816, and perhaps earlier. In 1820, he was representative in the legislature. He was a lawyer of respectable address and attainments. But Winchendon was not a congenial soil for men of the legal profession in those days, and he removed to Greenfield. He represented Franklin County in the State Senate.

The lawyers in practice here since the removal of Mr. Newcomb, have been Benjamin O. Tyler, David L. Morrill, L. D. Pierce, Lafayette W. Pierce, and Giles H. Whitney, Esqrs. These are still living, except L. D. Pierce, Esq. All but the two last mentioned, left several years since. T. G. Kent, S. A. Burgess, and Jacob B. Harris, Esqrs., studied law here, and perhaps conducted a few causes, but they are settled, and prospering in the following places, viz: Milford, Blackstone and Abington.

### SECTION 3.—PHYSICIANS.

The first physician of whom mention is made in the Records, was Dr. TAYLOR. The town paid a bill of his for attending Rev. Mr. Stimpson, but his residence is not given.

After him, Dr. DUNSMORE of Lunenburg had a run of practice in this town. Although a good doctor, he was a man of violent temper. It



is related that once when he had dismounted for the purpose of gathering chestnuts by the road-side, his horse refused to be caught. As the Dr. drew near he would caper away. Dr. D. was in the habit of taking his gun. Being exasperated, he leveled his musket and shot the horse dead.

Dr SHATTUCK, of Templeton, practised here as early as 1770, and for years later.

Dr GREEN came here in 1774, and remained a year or two; but not finding business, he departed.

In 1777, ISRAEL WHITON, M. D., of Ashford, Conn., settled in this town, and remained till his death in 1819, about forty-two years. He had been Surgeon's Mate in the celebrated Col. Knowlton's regiment two or three years. He had hard times in Winchendon, for a few years, but his practice grew by degrees till he had most of the business here, besides riding in nearly all the towns of Worcester North, and some in New Hampshire. Many young men studied medicine with him, and taught school in the winter. He was a man of sense, integrity and prudence. He had the confidence of the community, and was a worthy member of the Church.

He used to relate that while in New York, in the Revolution, he bought an elegant cane of a soldier for a shilling. Not long after he met an old gentleman who desired to look at his cane. Taking it in his hand, he burst into tears, saying: "This is all that is left of my son, the brave Capt. Cheeseman, who died fighting at Quebec." Expressing a strong desire to recover it, and offering any price that might be demanded, Dr. Whiton felt pleasure in parting with it for the shilling which it had cost him.

At one time he had a patient in Royalston, a man who was in the habit of taking the property of other people, and neglecting to restore it. Being very sick and afraid of dying, the man confessed his sins to the Dr. On his return, in answer to an inquiry in regard to the patient's health, he remarked that the man would "probably get well, for he had puked up a harrow, a log chain and a pair of saddle-bags."

He was pursued by wolves on his return from the western part of Rindge, towards the close of the last century. They came near, and howled frightfully. He had a leg of veal on the crupper behind him, and thought of throwing it to the wolves, but thinking, as he said, that he had the best right to it, he put spurs to his horse, holding on to the

veal. When he reached the opening by the old Keith tavern, the pack left him and slunk off into the woods.

In 1811, he bought of the Hon. Harrison Gray Otis, two hundred and forty acres of land, including the outlet of Monomonauk lake, and extending almost to Spring Village. Mr. Otis was tired of paying taxes on unproductive land and sold the whole for \$50!

OTIS CROSBY, Esq., came to town in 1781. He had been a physician in Shrewsbury. It does not appear that he practised here, but he kept an apothecary store fifteen to eighteen years, and supplied the doctors in the region with drugs and medicines. He was appointed Postmaster in 1795. For many years he was a noted Justice of the Peace, and his Record Book reveals a rather low state of morals in those days. After a residence of about twenty-five years, in the house which he built, where Mr. Jarvis Winn now lives, he removed to Vermont, and died in Montpelier.

Dr. ZIBA HALL resided here a few years beginning with 1790. He came from and returned to Keene, N. H., where he obtained notoriety from the peculiarity of his religious views.

In 1793, Dr. MASON SPOONER took up his residence here as a physician, by invitation of Dr. Whiton, his medical instructor. He remained about nine years, and then removed to Templeton. He was a man of sense, shrewdness and wit, and had a remarkable faculty for characterizing obnoxious individuals with a few words which would stick to them like a burr through life. Nothing but the love of strong drink prevented him from rising to the front rank of the medical profession. He married one of the daughters of Major Sylvester.

Dr. JACOB HOLMES opened an office here, by advice of Dr. Whiton, in 1804, and remained about two years; he then removed to Westminster, then to Athol, and finally to Leicester. He had a high reputation and large practice.

In the year 1806, in compliance with the wishes of Dr. Whiton, Dr. WILLIAM PARKHURST began practice here, but after a few years removed to Petersham, where he still resides. His wife was a daughter of Major Sylvester. He has always maintained a good reputation as a physician.

Dr. WILLIAM H. CUTLER came in 1816, and rode his circuit a few





ALVAH GODDARD, M. D.

years; then removed to Ashburnham, where he resided till recently. His home is now in Andover.

Dr. M. SPAULDING succeeded him, but soon took his departure.

Subsequently Dr. ALLEN C. FAY resided here a brief period, but soon removed to Milford, where he has a large practice.

Dr. JAMES M. FULLER of Yale College from 1821 to 1824. Another Dr. Fuller resided here about 1825, where he was a student, and a Representative.

In 1826, Dr. ALVAH GORHAM, a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Twitchell of Keene, settled in the Village. He and Dr. BROWN were nearly all the preceding physicians had resided. As Dr. BROWN died in 1819, there was but a space of a few years between them, and together have filled out a term of about eighty-five years of medical practice. Whether as a citizen, a physician, or a member of the Church of Christ, he has always been held in high estimation. Like Dr. Whiton, he has represented the town in the General Court. He removed to the Village in 1841.

Of the later physicians who are yet in active life and strength, it is not needful to speak at length. Dr. IRA RUSSELL, who became a partner of Dr. Godding in 1844, who afterwards resided in Natick, and who gained a distinguished reputation as a Surgeon in the army, during the late rebellion, returned to town in 1866, and has an extensive practice.

Dr. MILLER was here a few years subsequent to 1853; he returned to Troy, N. H., whence he came.

Dr. WILLIAM LINCOLN came in 1852, and remained a few years. He was held in high esteem. He is now practising in Wabashaw, Minn., of which town he has been Mayor.

In 1860, Dr. JOHN T. PAGE commenced practice in the Village. His business grew by degrees, and he was esteemed a skillful physician by a large circle of patients in this vicinity. He was found dead in his office, early in the morning of the 27th day of December, 1866.

Dr. M. L. BROWN has opened an office here the present season.

Dr. WILLIAM P. GEDDES entered on his profession here as an eclectic physician in 1854, and has had a large business in this and the neighboring towns.

This seems the proper place to refer to a resident who, though not a physician, bore the title of doctor, and kept an apothecary store, with other articles of a miscellaneous sort. Dr. PENTLAND, so called, lived

near the house of Mr. John Cook, not far from the Ashburnham line. He was a Scotchman who came here with some money, and afterwards visited Scotland, where he obtained more. But he was of unthrifty habits, and soon scattered all his substance. According to Dr. Whiton, he carried on a farm as well as a store. He was a gentleman of polished manners and general information, but he grew intemperate and dissipated, and at last, he and his wife became literally vagabonds, all their means having been consumed. Mr. John Woodbury recollects his going to the store to buy some potatoes when a boy. Mrs. Pentland, dressed like a fine lady in silk, waited upon him and tore a wide rent in her dress. What became of them is not known, as they left town more than fifty years since. Dr. Whiton says "they might well be designated the *unhappy pair*."

#### SECTION 4.—GRADUATES.

OTIS CROSBY, though not a native, belonged to this town when he took his degree at Dartmouth College, in 1791. He studied for the ministry, and was invited to settle in New Gloucester, Me., but died of consumption prior to settlement.

Rev. JOHN MILTON WHITON, D. D., son of Dr. Israel Whiton, took his degree at Yale College in 1805. He was settled for nearly half a century in Antrim, N. H., when he sought a field of labor requiring less exertion, in Bennington, N. H. He was a man of piety and wisdom. His influence at home and far and wide among the Churches, was that of a discreet, peace-loving and godly minister of the gospel. He was superior in ability and scholarship.

Rev. SAMUEL H. TOLMAN, son of Dea. Desire Tolman, was a graduate of Dartmouth, in 1806. He was settled in several places, one of which was Atkinson, N. H., and was a useful minister; of exemplary life and conversation.

STEPHEN EMERY, Jr., graduated at Dartmouth, in 1808, and settled as a lawyer, in Athol.

Rev. SEWALL GOODRIDGE, son of Payson Goodridge, received his degree at Dartmouth in 1806. He preached in Canada.

Rev. OTIS C. WHITON, graduated at Yale College. He was a son of Dr. Israel Whiton. His ministerial life was passed in North Yarmouth, Me., Westmoreland N. H., and other places. He was a useful minister.

Rev. GAMALIEL C. BEAMAN, son of David Beaman, took his degree at Amherst College. He has been a worthy Presbyterian minister, in Iowa, for many years.

Hon. WILLIAM B. WASHBURN, son of Asa and Phebe [Whitney] Washburn, is a graduate of Yale College,—class of 1844. He has been in Orange and in Greenfield, where he now resides. He is President of the Greenfield Bank, and Representative of the Ninth District in Congress.

Rev. SAMUEL WATSON BROWN, son of Samuel Brown, Jr., graduated at Yale College near 1850. After spending several years in teaching and in business, he was ordained in Rindge, N. H., in 1863. He preached in South Coventry and Groton, Conn. His death occurred in the latter place in the autumn of 1866, at the age of thirty-eight years. He was esteemed in every place of his residence, as a modest, sensible and christian man, as well as a faithful minister.

EMERSON C. WHITNEY took his degree at New Haven in 1851. He was a man of fine promise, but deceased at the age of twenty-nine, before entering on his profession. Many high hopes were buried in his too early grave.

SAMUEL BALDWIN, Esq., son of Samuel Baldwin, took his degree at Yale College. He is a lawyer at the west.

The more recent graduates are as follows: William W. Godding, M. D., a graduate of Dartmouth College, in the year 1854, now first assistant physician in the National Asylum for the Insane near Washington, D. C.; Jacob B. Harris, Esq., a graduate of Yale in the class of 1854, now a lawyer at East Abington, Mass.; John Nelson Murdock, Esq., a graduate of Brown University in 1852, now a lawyer at Wabashaw, Min.; Isaac M. Murdock, a graduate of Brown University in the year 1853; and Charles Edward Bigelow, who took his degree at Williams College in 1866.

At present, Frederick Russell is a Senior, and Charles L. B. Whitney a Sophomore in Harvard University; John Hale is a Sophomore in Amherst College; and Addison B. Poland a Freshman in Wesleyan University.

In this connection may be given the names of certain natives, or residents of the town, who, though not graduates, have held a respectable position in some profession.

Artemas Brown, M. D., son of Samuel Brown, was born in 1789. He was a physician of honorable standing in Medway, where, after a long course of practise, he died within a few years. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1853.

Rev. David Woodbury, was son of Col. Jacob B. Woodbury. He is a clergyman of good reputation in the Baptist Church, and resides in Silver Creek, N. Y.

Rev. Silas Woodbury is brother of the preceding. He is a respected minister in connection with the Presbyterian branch of the Church of Christ. His residence is in the State of Tennessee, Shelby Co.

Rev. Andrew Pollard, D. D., a prominent clergyman in the Baptist denomination, is a native of Harvard, though he was in Winchendon in his early years. He has, for many years been pastor of a Church in Taunton.

Dr. Abel H. Wilder was the son of Levi Divoll. His surname was changed to that of his mother. He has lived in Groton and other places, and always maintained a respectable position as a physician.

Levi Pillsbury, M. D., is the son of the Rev. Levi Pillsbury. His residence is in Fitchburg, where his practice is quite extensive.

Rev. Moses Hale Wilder, son of Abel Wilder, Jr., and grandson of Hon. Abel Wilder and of Dea. Moses Hale, is a Congregational clergyman of highly respectable standing. He has published a work on matters pertaining to Church polity, with credit to his reputation. As a pastor, he has been successful. His present charge is at Paris, N. Y.

The Hon. Carter Wilder, formerly member of Congress from Kansas, though not born in this town, lived here and attended our schools in his early years. He is the son of "one-eyed Abel," so called. The residence of the family was at the Pollard place, between the Bigelow farm and the old No. 6 school-house.

Hon. W. W. Rice, of Worcester, is connected with Winchendon by ancestry and residence, though this is not his birth-place. A grandson of Capt. Phineas Whitney, he has been familiar with the town from early days, and his father, Rev. Benjamin Rice, lived here several years, while he was still a member of his father's family. He is a graduate of Gorham Academy, and of Bowdoin College. After having charge of the Leicester Academy a few years, he settled in Wor-



cester as a lawyer, and has a large practice. He has been Mayor of the city, and for a time, Judge of Probate.

Dr. Joshua Tucker, and Dr. Elisha Tucker, sons of the late venerable Seth Tucker, have long had a high reputation as dentists in Boston. Dr. Levi W. Foskett follows the same profession with success in this vicinity.

Roswell M. Shurtleff, son of the late Dr. S., of Rindge, came here in childhood, and was trained in our schools. He is an artist of rising reputation in New York. This work is adorned with several products of his pencil.

#### OTHER PROMINENT MEN.

Hon. Thomas Berry of Ipswich, is often referred to in the first part of this work. As he was prominent in settling the town, and resided here occasionally, though not a permanent inhabitant, a few lines may be properly given to his memory. Dr. Fitts, of Ipswich, in a letter to Dr. Whiton, says that Col. Berry "was a very influential man here, both in Church and State. He was the most prominent member, he was a wise counsellor, and manifested great interest in the prosperity of religion and the cause of education. He was Judge of Probate of Essex county from 1739 to 1756, and for most of the time Judge of the county court also."

Dea. Richard Day, who came hither from Ipswich, as early as 1752, is believed to have been a native of Ireland. His wife, a daughter of Gabriel Pushey, was of French ancestry, in Acadia. Dea. Day was a large landholder, the tradition being that at one time, he owned nearly a third of the town. The first proprietors parted with their lots at a very low price. It is said that some lots were sold for a mug of flip, so little money-value had land, in this remote place, during the time of Indian wars. Mr. Day built the best house in town, which is still standing. He also built a log tavern, which was in the orchard west of the house of Isaac Cummings. There Mary Holt, the first child of the town, had her birth. He was the most prominent man till his death, in 1774. He was the Moderator of the first town meeting, town Treasurer for several years, and held other offices. He was the first dea-

con of the Congregational Church. In addition to talents and character, he is said to have been a man of great physical strength. Three of his sons, John, Nathan and Daniel, were revolutionary soldiers. Nathan died of dysentery, in camp near Somerville.

Hon. Abel Wilder was born in Leominster, April 15, 1741, old style, the 26th, new style. He was in Winchendon as early as 1762, and from that time till his decease in 1792, was constantly in public employment. He was the first town Clerk, and he held, at different times, every office worth having. He was the first representative to the General Court, after the Constitution was adopted, and from 1779 to 1792, was either in the House or the Senate, except a year or two when the town sent no delegates. He represented the town in the first Constitutional Convention. At his decease the public mind was prepared to send him to Congress. He was chosen deacon of the First Church in 1769. Mr. Wilder was a remarkable man. He was of stout build, and though not handsome, had a pleasant countenance and commanding presence. Though in constant employment in public business, not only as an officer, but as a member, and generally chairman of every important committee in town, parish and church, he seems never to have provoked the jealousy and envy that usually follow superior men. Though a man of firm principle and unbending rectitude, and earnest piety, he appears to have been one of those rare men whose "enemies are at peace with him." His minister relied upon him, the public confided in him, the church rested on him as a pillar, and his family regarded him with love and reverence. He fills the largest place in the history of the town. And as he was so useful in his life, so there were mitigating circumstances attending his lamented departure. He was chairman of the building Committee, in erecting the meeting-house in 1792. The day he left home to go to Jaffrey, where he was inoculated for the small pox, of which he died, he passed over the Common. The men were leveling the land before the meeting-house, and when, after a few pleasant words, he rode on his way, the workmen, with the ancient courtesy, took off their hats and bowed to him. He returned the salute, and was seen no more. When it appeared that his case was to have a fatal termination, Dr. Israel Whiton visited him, and received his parting directions respecting his business and family. He was cheerful and prepared for his departure. His grave, says a note from Mrs. Albert Brown, "is with six others, who died at the time, of the same

disease,\* on the farm owned by Mr. Benjamin Pierce, one mile north-east of East Jaffrey. The graves are enclosed, and there are grave-stones to two of them." Many letters of Mr. Wilder are preserved, and if there were room, they would be inserted here, as illustrative of his noble character. Two of them may be found on pages 88 and 90.

Dea. Moses Hale, a native of Boxford, came here in 1770. He lived for a time with Abel Wilder; then became a surveyor and farmer, and after living on the south-east of the Common, west of the Gardner road, several years, he set up the Hale tavern. Next to Dea. Wilder, he filled the largest place in public estimation; and after the death of Mr. Wilder, he was in the first rank. He filled many offices, and was, several years, delegate to the General Court, besides being delegate to the State Convention, for adopting the national Constitution. He was deacon of the Congregational Church for a long term of years preceding his decease in 1828.

Capt. Phinehas Whitney, son of William Whitney, was the most prominent business man in the town from about 1800 to his death in 1831. Besides a large farm, he kept tavern for a while, owned an oil mill and woolen factory, and did a large business in raising and keeping cattle and horses. Though esteemed by his townsmen, he was rarely in office, because his engrossing business led him to decline public employment. He was the first to enlist to put down the Shays rebels, being then a youth of twenty years. Afterwards he was Captain of the Cavalry Company of this and neighboring towns. He was an indefatigable worker, and kept all about him at work; yet he was a good employer, and those brought up by him, remember him with respect and gratitude. At the time of the great religious awakening in 1820-21, he paid the wages of his workmen whenever they were inclined to attend

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\* The graves of three persons—two adults and a child—may still be found, on the "old Capt. John Pike place," now owned by Capt. Oliver Adams, about sixty rods south of the place long occupied by Asaph Brown, and thirty rods west of the road going from Levi Stearns' to the old burying-yard. There is a cellar and well in an old orchard. The town declined to furnish a "pest-house," but these three persons died here of the small pox, and their graves were forgotten till Mr. Simeon B. Stearns, of Williamsburgh, N. Y., who was on a visit here, this summer, 1868, informed the author. The graves—of two adults and one child—are within six feet of the north and south wall, and a few rods south of the wall running east and west. They are perpendicular to the former wall. The names are not known. Double red roses, after seventy or eighty years, still flourish there—or did till recently—and shed beauty and fragrance over the lonely graves.

the week-day meetings. From that period, through life, he was decided and devoted as a Christian. He was active as a pioneer in the Temperance reform. He died at Newton, while on a journey to Boston with his youngest daughter. But though summoned away while far from home, he was ready, as is the good man always, to go to "be forever with the Lord."

Lieut. Paul Raymond, son of Col. Paul Raymond, was one of the foremost men in all public business, for a quarter of a century. His father was Lt. Col. in the Revolution, and the tradition is, that while the Colonel of the Regiment was generally sick or out of the way, in times of danger, Lt. Col. Raymond was a brave and competent commander. Lieut. Paul, was a brave revolutionary soldier, as well as his father, and also his brother James. Lieut. Raymond was Moderator, first Selectman, Assessor, Treasurer, &c., &c.; and during a long period, was on committees to manage cases before the Courts, and to build roads and bridges. He was the father of the late much esteemed Dea. Paul Raymond.

Seth Tucker, Senior, settled early on the place now occupied by his son and grandson. He was a revolutionary soldier. As a man of industry and integrity; as a pioneer in the beginning of the Village, and as an exemplary member of the Baptist Church, he deserves honorable mention. The author remembers him as a venerable old man, to whose talks about old times, and on religious themes, he listened with interest. He attained the great age of 98 years. His grave is in the old burying-yard. There was a remarkable spirit of fraternal confidence between Mr. Tucker and his brother Elisha. Their first property was a hen owned in common. When they became men, and removed to Winchendon, they owned a farm together. The house was in the lot north of the North school-house. Each took what he needed from the farm, but they made no division of crops. This went on until each had five children when they made a division of property satisfactory to both. Elisha died in the course of the year ensuing.

Lieut. David Poor has already been mentioned in several places. He is referred to again because of his singular notions. One of them was that he should come back again, at some future time; another was, that stones grow. Both these notions were brought together on one occasion. He was building a stone wall, and a neighbor remarking that it

was too low, he replied : " Well, it will grow, and when I come back, it will be high enough." Another anecdote may be given. Having a quarrel with a neighbor named Bosworth, who threatened violence, Lieut. Poor came before Esq. Crosby to " swear the peace" upon him. As the Esq. read the paper to which Poor was to take oath, he listened attentively till the passage was reached which stated that he was in bodily fear of Bosworth, when he could hold in no longer, and burst out : " No : I'm not afraid of him, and never was." " Mr. Poor," said Esq. Crosby, " you had better go home and be quiet."

Col Jacob B. Woodbury is worthy of a place in this series of sketches. He came from Ipswich, after the Revolution, in which he had been a faithful soldier and good officer. The record of his military life would furnish several interesting pages in a family history, but there is not room for it in this condensed volume. The story of his contest with the wolf, however, must not be omitted. About eighty years ago,—the exact year is not known by his surviving sons—word came to him that a wolf had been tracked from Hubbardston into the southern border of this town. The hunters were fatigued with the long chase in the snow, and handed over the pursuit to Woodbury and his neighbors, one of whom was his brother-in-law, Roberts. They got upon the track, and pursued the animal to the ledge of rocks north of James Raymond's, nearly half way from Raymond's to the Perley, or Joseph Whitney place. While the dogs followed the wolf over the ledge, the men skirted its eastern base, expecting to meet the game at the northern end. Their expectation was confirmed, but the leading dog and the wolf had evidently had a fight, in which the dog fared hard, as he could not be induced to close with the wolf again. He followed with the men, but his courage was gone. The pursuit was continued into the Manning swamp, southwest of the Estey, or No. 5 school-house. The men drew near the animal, the Col. heading the party. He snapped his gun, but it held fire, the priming being wet by the moist snow that fell from the branches. Mr. Woodbury then followed the victim along the body of a fallen tree, and when near enough, gave him a stunning blow on the head with the butt of his gun. This staggered the wolf, now fatigued with his race and his struggle with the dog. Mr. W. now threw himself upon the body of the wolf, and pressed him into the snow. The animal made desperate effort to rise, and to assail his antagonist, but

the Col. held on with a fatal grip. He called to Roberts for his jack-knife. Reaching from a safe distance, the knife was put in his hand, when he cut the wolf's throat, and the contest was over. The body was swung under a staddle, and carried on the shoulders of the men, to Mr. Woodbury's house as a trophy. That was the last and the most famous wolf fight in the annals of the town. It should be said that Col. Woodbury was not only a brave soldier, but a good farmer, a respected citizen often in public employment, and a faithful member of the First Church. An interesting sermon was delivered at his funeral, by Rev. Mr. Morton. This was printed, and stray copies of it are yet extant.

Ephraim Murdock, Esq., Isaac Morse, Esq., and Mr. Amasa Whitney, are placed in this list of worthies, because they really laid the foundations of the growth and prosperity of the Village. By their industry, frugality, foresight and enterprise, the business of the town was largely increased. They were all in public employment somewhat, and had much influence in town and parish affairs, but their mark was made as men of business. They were contemporaries here for almost half a century. They were men of good morals, of temperate habits, supporters of religious institutions, prudent as well as enterprising, and therefore did much to give character to the place. It is owing in large measure, to their example and their instructions, that business has ever been done here on a safe scale, and that there have been but few failures, in hard times. It is the habit of the place to pay debts. May the influence of these men, as relates to integrity, good habits and uprightness in business, continue till the Village becomes a city, and through all its history.

Mr. Joel Butler was born in Newton. If not, he attended school there in childhood, as the following instructive anecdote will prove. He used to relate that on one occasion, the old minister of Hopkinton came to examine the school. Some of the children were guilty of bad behavior. The old gentleman took no notice of this till he came to the closing prayer, when he gave a lesson that could not be forgotten. He prayed as follows: "O Lord, bless these children; for thou knowest that if they were well brought up at home, they would not act so like serpents in school." A truth as applicable now as it was ninety years ago. Mr. Butler came into town in 1826, from Townsend, where,



MR. AMASA WHITNEY.





near the east border of Ashby, he had a mill and farm. In company with his son, Ebenezer, he purchased the Butler mill place, and a large tract of land around it, and there he lived to the great age of almost ninety-nine years. He was an industrious, intelligent man, and his faculties held out remarkably well. He was interested in all that pertained to the welfare of the Church of Christ, and was better versed than most people, in the prophetic Scriptures, and the literature pertaining to them. It was remarked at his funeral, that he had probably known persons who had seen some of the first settlers of Boston, and perhaps, some of those who came over in the Mayflower.

The following paragraphs ought to have found a place on page 427 :

The Hon. Artemas Hale, of Bridgewater, son of Dea. Moses Hale, is one of those who not only confer honor on the place of their birth, but who hold their native town in kind remembrance. He has expressed to the author his deep interest in the fortunes of the town, and in its forthcoming History. In early life he was engaged in surveying, and teaching school. He settled in Bridgewater when a young man, where he has acquired wealth, and at the same time, the respect and confidence of the community. He has represented his district in Congress, and held other offices of honor and trust.

Rev. Eliot Payson, son of Eliot, and gr.-son of James Payson, was born in 1808. While young he removed to central New York with his father's family. It is probable that he graduated at Hamilton College, in Clinton, near Utica, as that was the only College in those days west of Schenectady. He has been, for many years, a respected minister of the Presbyterian Church. A sermon delivered by him, in the North Congregational Church, fifteen or twenty years since, is still distinctly remembered. It was very impressive.

Oliver Lovejoy, M. D., son of Oliver Lovejoy, is a native of this town. He received a good academical education ; obtained the discipline which comes from keeping school, in which calling he was very successful ; and then studied medicine with great thoroughness. After being engaged as assistant physician in Insane Hospitals at Providence, R. I., and Brattleboro, Vt., he took up his residence as a physician at Haverhill, where he enjoys a high reputation and has an extensive practice in his profession.

Rev. A. Hastings Ross had his birth in Winchendon. By persist-

ent effort, and constant reliance on divine aid, he worked himself into and through Oberlin College. His theological education was chiefly obtained in Andover Seminary. After a few years' settlement in Boylston, he removed, two or three years since, to the city of Springfield, Ohio, where he is the efficient pastor of the Congregational Church.

It is quite possible that there are others who have conferred honor on their birth-place, and who are equally deserving of honorable mention. If so, they and their friends will understand that their names have not been omitted by design.

“Think not that these alone deserve the praise,  
As worthy children of their Mother-town;  
But all her daughters fair and sons, whose days  
With blessed deeds have wrought her jewel'd crown:  
These by their toil, their love, their holy vow,  
Have bound *immortelles* round their Mother's brow.”

OLD FAIRPLAY.

## CHAPTER XXXI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

“So various, that the mind  
Of desultory man, studious of change  
And pleas'd with novelty, might be indulg'd.”

COWPER.

Several topics will receive attention in this chapter ; some, because they defy classification, and others, because they were overlooked at the proper place.

## SECTION 1.—INVENTIONS.

There has been much ingenuity displayed in the workshops of Winchendon from their first establishment. Many improvements in machinery that do not rank with inventions, and for which no patents are taken out, are familiar to mechanics.

Some of the important inventions made by residents of Winchendon, are referred to below.

Richard Stuart was a contriver in mechanics, and among other things conceived the idea of bending a saw round the edge of a cylinder, and thus sawing circular stuff.

Dea. Reuben Hyde, however, was the real inventor of the cylinder or barrel saw, of which he had the patent, till it was sold for the trifling sum of fifty dollars.

Jacob Simonds was the inventor of a combination of saws of different sizes, for cutting out the fluting of wash-boards.

Edward Loud invented a revolving cylinder for fluting wooden wash-boards.

Lewis Robbins invented the machine for making clothes-pins with rapidity. Formerly the process was slow ; now the pins are turned, sawed and shaved as if by magic.

Polycrates Parks is an ingenious contriver of mechanical improvements.

Edwin Parks is the inventor of an auger-faucet which bores into the barrel-head. Of course, it just fits the hole, and there is no spirting between withdrawing the auger and inserting the faucet.

Col. William Murdock invented a bobbin for the mills in Lawrence, which is still in use. His special improvement in jack-spools has been adopted by others in all improved spools. A more recent bobbin of his is now coming into use.

The Parks brothers make an improved jack-spool in large quantity.

Stephen Ketchum is the inventor of an improved method of screwing the ends of pipe together, thus dispensing with soddering together, and cutting apart. He has also made improvements in the sewing machine. His chopping-knife is manufactured by himself and Sumner Loud.

Quimby S. Backus has invented a machine to print labels for spools, &c.; also a vice; and still another for cutting slate pencils.

Lyman Jennings is the inventor of a machine for cutting or slicing off, instead of sawing veneers.

John G. Folsom has made several improvements of sewing machines.

Jonathan Carter is the inventor of a neat method of painting the "star pails."

Baxter D. Whitney's first patent was for a machine for stretching wrinkles out of cloth while in the process of fulling. A machine of his for smoothing hard wood lumber after passing through the ordinary planer, is in general use; it has been patented in several European countries. The same is true also of his gauge lathe, and his improvements in cylinder planers. He is the inventor also of a machine for grinding cylinder saws. The latter has been patented in this country. He obtained a silver medal for the smoothing machine and the gauge lathe, at the Great Exposition at Paris, in 1867. A picture of the medal is inserted opposite.

## SECTION 2.—LAPIDARIES.

The author does not know where the people of this town obtained their monumental stone work in former times; but of late years, they have been fortunate in this respect. Mr. Tateum, who was here some fifteen years ago, was an excellent workman in marble, granite, and oth-



**Silver Medal.**



er kinds of stone ; and Mr. George H. Allyn, now in the establishment of Mr. Henry Peck, has made his calling a fine art.

### SECTION 3.—ANTIQUITIES.

There is very little in a town so recently settled as Winchendon, that has the flavor of antiquity. Some things, however, which are relatively ancient, may be noticed.

The oldest house in the town is a few rods west of the south end of the Common. It has already been stated that this house was built in 1762, by Dea. Richard Day. The picture of it may disappoint some because the tall elms in front are not given. But it was deemed best to give the house without accessories which must have had a place if the elms were included. The roof originally was not four-sided. The same house appears in connection with the old meeting-house on page 151. It has recently become the property of Mr. D. E. Poland, of Boston, a native of the town. For convenience the picture is inserted between pages 44 and 45.

The house occupied by Dexter Bruce is made of materials taken from the two story house of Hon. Abel Wilder, which stood on the same spot. The house of Joshua Nutting is the old two story house of Hananiah Whitney, Sen., razed. Both these houses were built quite early. The old house long occupied by Joseph Whitney, Sen., and now inhabited by Mr. Page, formerly belonged to Dudley Perley. The low L part of that house is much more ancient than the house itself, and was part of the first house of Mr. Perley. The house of the late Esq. Murdock, by the great elm, and Mr. Winn's house, built by Esq. Crosby, are both ancient, for Winchendon, and are still in good repair. Fragments of the old meeting-house on Tallow Hill, may still be seen at Mr. Weston's, near whose house it stood. The old "Society House," which was the cradle of the New Boston Baptist Church is still standing, some twenty rods north of Daniel Day's. James McElwain, the tavern-keeper, bought the old meeting-house in the Centre, in 1792, and probably the timbers are still in use. In this connection the following extract from the Records, which was not found when the chapter on the Parish was printed, finds its place.

"A record of the pew ground sold at public vendue, the fourth day of September, A. D. 1765, by Richard Day, John Darling and Theos. Mansfield, Committee men, and a list of the men's names that purchased the same.

|         |               |                   |     |    |          |            |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|-----|----|----------|------------|
| No. 16, | struck off to | Silas Whitney,    | for | 9  | dollars. |            |
| " 1,    | "             | Daniel Goodridge, | "   | 10 | "        |            |
| " 10,   | "             | Joseph Stimson,   | "   | 5  | "        |            |
| " 15,   | "             | Theos. Mansfield, | "   | 10 | "        | 1 quar.    |
| " 4,    | "             | Dea. Richard Day, | "   | 8  | "        | 1 quar.    |
| " 11,   | "             | Ephraim Stimson,  | "   | 10 | "        | 1 half.    |
| " 9,    | "             | Dea. Richard Day, | "   | 10 | "        | 1 half.    |
| " 8,    | "             | Silas Whitney     | "   | 16 | "        | 1 quarter. |
| " 12,   | "             | Benoni Boynton,   | "   | 11 | "        |            |
| " 13,   | "             | John Darling,     | "   | 8  | "        | 1 half.    |
| " 14,   | "             | Abel Wilder,      | "   | 9  | "        | 1 half.    |
| " 2,    | "             | Jonathan Foster,  | "   | 10 | "        |            |
| " 3,    | "             | Abel Wilder,      | "   | 9  | "        |            |
| " 5,    | "             | Jonathan Stimson, | "   | 7  | "        |            |
| " 6,    | "             | Jonathan Stimson, | "   | 11 | "        |            |
| " 7,    | "             | Jonathan Stimson, | "   | 15 | "        | 1 half."   |

Other buildings might be mentioned, as well as the half buried remains of numerous old dams, mills and bridges; but they are not of sufficient interest to attract pilgrims to their sites.

The gun and powder-horn which are here represented, belong to Mr. Luke Rice, who received them from his father, Lieut. Benjamin Rice, a revolutionary worthy. He bought them of Robert Bradish, Sen., who used them both, when acting as a scout, in this neighborhood, in the last French and Indian war. The gun was made in England in 1737. Both articles therefore, besides being antique, have an historical interest.



Mr. Jacob Woodbury has an old hatchet which was carried to Quebec, in Arnold's expedition through the wilds of Maine, by Jonathan Pollard. In his hands it was not only a convenient tool, but a formidable weapon, and on more than one occasion, was the means of saving his life.

In this connection it is appropriate to refer to the old "Block Houses" again. It was stated on a former page that there was one at Col. Berry's, now Samuel Woodbury's. It was on the Berry farm, but was east of the house about half way to the John and Joshua Gill place, on the north side of the road, where the cellar may still be seen.



It was also stated that there was one east of the Tallow Hill school-house. In strict truthfulness, this log house, of the Boyntons and Ed-dys, was the old block house of Bullardville, moved and built anew.

The block house on Jacob Hale's farm, was not near the Waterville school-house, as previously stated, but east of Merritt Hale's, on the north side of the road near the top of the hill.

If relics properly come under this head, it may be mentioned that human bones were found, many years since, on the eastern shore of Den-ison lake. By some they were supposed to be Indian remains.

#### SECTION 4.—WILD ANIMALS.

Allusions have been made to the fact that wild animals were prevalent here, and in this region, for years after the first settlement. The howl of the wolf was often heard, and his prowlings in the sheep pastures were more fatal than when chasing after Dr. Whiton's leg of veal.

Bears were also met with occasionally. Since the present century came in, a she-bear and two cubs were seen not far from the Evans place, by Mr. Luke Rice (then a boy,) and others. Though pursued, it made its escape.

Poisonous serpents are rarely if ever met with in our borders.

#### SECTION 5.—HORSES.

The people of this town have long been noted for liking good horses. Perhaps the fact that the Messrs. Whitney,—William and Phinehas—raised, bought and kept so many horses, had some influence in creating this preference for good animals. However this may be, the writer found here, twenty-five years ago, a large number of excellent horses ; and the number has largely increased since that time. Many farmers are particular to have a good horse ; the team-horses are large and strong ; and many families have spirited and elegant teams. Fast horses are sometimes associated with " fast young men," but thus far, we have been favored with the former without the drawback of the latter. In addition it is pertinent to the subject to say, that the stables of Whitcomb & Fairbanks, Wood & Rand, and the more recent one of J. Morse, are well supplied with horses which keep up the credit of the town in this regard.

#### SECTION 6.—WHITE CEDARS AND WHITE SWALLOWS.

It seems that the " white cedars" of Winchendon are referred to in

Wood's Botany. It would therefore be a censurable omission if the author failed to say that Hon. Elisha Murdock formerly owned about four acres of this species of wood, so rare in this section of country. It was cut up and used in the manufacture of those elegant pails made of alternate white and red cedar staves, which many families will remember. One in the writer's possession, a gift from Mr. Murdock, is still as "good as new," and as fragrant as the "cedars of Lebanon." Not less fragrant, in a moral sense, is the memory of many years service with him, in the cause of education, of temperance, and of freedom.

In the years 1865, 6 and 7, one or two specimens of the white swallow, were seen in the Village, by a few persons. They were near, on each occasion but one, the bridge by Goodspeed & Wyman's. Their singular appearance attracted attention.

#### SECTION 7.—OLD ELMS.

The wide-branching elm between the houses of Reuben Vose, Jr., and Charles J. Rice, on the old Common, was set out a little more than a hundred years ago, by Mr. Stimson, the first minister. Long may it honor his memory. The elms in front of the old Day house are ancient. It is not certainly known who planted them; but it is probable that Mr. Brown, the second minister, deserves the credit. Dea. Day was killed before people generally felt like setting out shade trees. The whole endeavor was to get trees out of the way. As Mr. Brown lived in the house during several years, and as the trees seem too old to have been planted by any one since his day, it will be safe to ascribe the planting to him till the claims of some other worthy are proved. It is known that he was fond of trees, and that he was engaged in setting out apple trees between the house and the Common on the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, and the tradition is that he heard the big guns.

The old elm in front of the house of Mrs. George Brown, was quite a tree when the late Esq. Murdock built the house. The planter of it is not known to the author. There is a double row of fine elms in front of the house of Mr. Luke Rice, most of which were set out by his father, Lt. Benjamin Rice. Mr. Rice has many beautiful maples also. He has the only shag-bark walnut trees in the town. Indeed, there are but two or three walnut trees of any kind in any other part of the town.

## SECTION 8.—WINCHENDON AS A PLACE OF RESORT.

It is a curious fact that this town had a reputation—rather limited to be sure—as a place of resort, fifty years and more ago. The “virtuous spring” at Spring Village was visited by many who drank the water for their health. Mr. Ahijah Wood kept a public house for their accommodation. If proper means were taken, the place would be thronged with summer visitors.

The beautiful Denison lake, has always been a resort, in the summer season, by those living not very remote. A good hotel there would bring its quota of patrons.

The Village is too busy to attend to company, and the hotel of Mr. Fairbanks, though well kept, and free from the loaferism which makes many village taverns disgusting, is generally full of boarders residing here. If enlarged, or if the proprietor should open another for the special accommodation of transient visitors and summer boarders, it would, without doubt, be filled.

## SECTION 9.—SECRET SOCIETIES.

It has been stated incidentally, on other pages, that an association of Odd Fellows was in existence here about twenty years since; and that the temperance cause has been furthered by Sons of Temperance and Good Templars. At present there is a Lodge of Free Masons, called the Artisan Lodge. It is said to be in a flourishing condition.

## SECTION 10.—POPULATION AND VALUATION.

The population of the town, at various dates, in the last century, has been given in former chapters. The following figures show the gradual increase of inhabitants from decade to decade.

|          |      |          |      |
|----------|------|----------|------|
| In 1790, | 946  | In 1830, | 1463 |
| “ 1800,  | 1092 | “ 1840,  | 1754 |
| “ 1810,  | 1173 | “ 1850,  | 2445 |
| “ 1820,  | 1263 | “ 1860,  | 2624 |

The population is now greater than at the last census, but the exact number of the inhabitants is not known.

At one time the valuation of this town was below that of all the towns in the county, except two or three. In 1865, the valuation was \$1, 160,952. In 1868, it was \$1,537,126.

## CHAPTER XXXII.—GENEALOGY AND PERSONAL HISTORY.

“ True is, that whilome that good poet said,  
That gentle mind by gentle deed is known,  
For man by nothing is so well bewray'd  
As by his manners, in which plain is shown  
Of what degree and what race he is grown.”

SPENSER.

“ How poor are all hereditary honors,  
Those poor possessions from another's deeds,  
Unless our own just virtues form our title,  
And give a sanction to our fond assumptions !”

SHIRLEY.

This chapter must be brief, for two reasons, either of which is sufficient. The first is, that though families have been desired, publicly and privately, to furnish their family history, but few have responded. The author is however indebted to a few who have aided him in this regard, to whom he hereby tenders his thanks. Mrs. Dudley Whitney, Hon. Artemas Hale, Miss Orelba Hale, Mr. Nelson W. Wyman and Mr. Luke Rice are entitled to special mention for the amount of information furnished by them.

The other cause of brevity is the firm conviction that genealogy and family history have no legitimate place in municipal history. Many families are to be found in scores of towns in New England ; some of them in hundreds of towns. The time is coming when all these towns will have their history. It follows that if genealogy is to have its place in them all, the same matter will be printed hundreds of times. The true method is, for families to gather their own history and genealogy into separate volumes respectively. This will save expense and subserve the convenience of all. But in accordance with the promise made in the Proposals for publishing this volume, a few pages of genealogy and family history will be given. The author holds himself responsible for no

omissions. Those who have neglected to furnish facts, have no right to complain if they are not published. A few families only are mentioned here except those in town previous to the year 1800. The best method of arranging genealogical facts is probably that of Hon. Charles Hudson in his valuable Histories of Marlboro' and Lexington; but as only two or three generations are given in this chapter, no special attention to method is required. The residences of the families can in most cases be found on the maps in this volume.

## ADAMS.

Col. Benjamin Adams settled here after the Shays rebellion, and lived at the north end of the Common. He married Zeruiah, daughter of Joseph Boynton. His children were :

1. Benjamin, b. Nov. 3, 1794, m. Susannah Alger; 2. Zeruiah, b. Sept. 4, 1796, m. Lyman Raymond; 3. Eunice, b. Aug. 11, 1798, m. Arba Reed; 4. Olive, b. Dec. 20, 1800, m. John Longley; 5. Oliver, b. July 24, 1804, m. Chastina Stone; 6. Joseph, b. Oct. 20, 1805, m. Hannah Whitney; 7. Albert, died young.

## ALGER.

David Alger lived just west of the bridge over Miller's river, beyond the Fry place. He came from Bridgewater, and settled in Winchendon about the year 1794. His children were :

1. Chloe, b. Jan. 7, 1793, at Bridgewater; 2. Jonathan, b. in W., Sept. 20, 1795; 3. David, b. Oct. 3, 1798; 4 and 5. Joseph and Benjamin, b. Jan. 13, 1804; 6. Susanna, b. Dec. 30, 1806, m. Benj. Adams, Jr.; 7. Sarah, b. Sept. 12, 1814. David Alger died Oct. 22, 1810.

Abiel Alger, came from Bridgewater, with his br. David in 1793 or 94. The christian name of his wife was Rhoda. Children :

1. Olive b. Oct. 9, 1789; 2. Vina, b. Apr. 1, 1791; 3. Abiel, b. Mar. 19, 1793; 4. Chloe, b. Nov. 11, 1794; 5. Sylvia, b. July 30, 1796, and two others.

## BALCOM.

Gideon Balcom, son of Daniel Balcom, m. Anna Hale. Several of their children died in 1810-11, during the great mortality among children. Of those who survived, were :

1. Lincoln, m. Abigail Raymond; and 2. Sabrina, m. C. C. Alger.

## BALL.

Phineas Ball lived in the first house south of Miller's river, a mile beyond Waterville, on the road to Royalston. This was the Oaks place. He had a son, Joel Ball.

## BARRETT.

Thornton Barrett and Abigail, his wife, had children :

1. Hannah, b. May 4, 1768; 2. John, b. Apr. 26, 1773; 3. Jerusha,

b. Mar. 20, 1775 ; 4. Thornton, b. Mar. 27, 1777 ; 5. Samuel, b. Aug. 9, 178\* ; 6. Joseph, b. July 1, 1783 ; 7. Henry, b. Dec. 1, 178\* ; 8. Nathaniel, b. July 15, 178\*.

## BATTLES.

Noah Battles and Miranda his wife had children :

1. Jairus, b. Oct. 17, 1785 ; 2. Philander, b. Dec. 5, 1798 ; 3. Lucinda, b. March 5, 1791 ; 4. Noah b. March 31, 1793. The above were born in Scituate. 5. Fanny, b. Oct. 3, 1795 ; 6. Susey, b. Jan. 14, 1798 ; 7. Naaman, b. June 10, 1800 ; 8. Lewis, b. March 12, 1803 ; 9. Nabbe, b. June 14, 1805.

## BEALS.

Stower Beals m. Mary Leavitt. Children :

1. Martha, m. Cyrus Pierce ; 2. Mary, m. Hananiah Whitney, Jr. ; 3. George L. m. Nancy Norcross.

Lt. Samuel Beals and Eunice his wife had children :

1. Jonathan ; 2. Madison ; 3. Wilder ; 4. Eunice A. ; 5. Samuel ; 6. Mary P. ; 7. Nathaniel.

## BEAMAN.

Gamaliel Beaman had a son David.

David m. Polly Carter, and had children :

1. Gamaliel Carter, b. March 20, 1799 ; 2. Elisha, b. Sept. 22, 1800 ; 3. Sally T., b. Sept. 29, 1802 ; 4. David W., b. Aug. 29, 1804 ; 5. Melas, b. July 31, 1806, d. Oct. 13, 1808 ; 6. Mary Ann, b. Dec. 4, 1808 ; 7. Prudence W., b. Jan. 7, 1811 ; 8. Harriet, b. Jan. 8, 1814 ; 9. Eliza, b. Aug. 19, 1816 ; 10. William, b. Sept. 16, 1818.

## BEAMIS.

Abel Bemis or Beamis, b. May 10, 1772. Susanna, his wife, b. Feb. 10, 1780. Children :

1. Rebecca, b. Feb. 20, 1803 ; 2. Loiza, b. Dec. 2, 1805 ; 3. Sarah, b. Feb. 23, 1806 ; 4. Susan, b. May 27, 1807 ; 5. Dolly, b. Aug. 10, 1809 ; 6. Roxanna, b. March 1, 1811 ; 7. Reuben, b. Oct. 25, 1813 ; 8. Abel, b. Nov. 30, 1815 ; 9. Sylvester, b. Nov. 6, 1816, d. July 11, 1818 ; 10. Merrie, b. March 23, 1820 ; 11. Lavinia H., b. Feb. 10, 1822 ; 12. Lucinda R., b. Sept. 6, 1823.

Jason Bemis had a blacksmith shop, 60 to 70 years ago, near the top of the hill from the Village to the Centre. Children :

1. Jason ; 2. Amos ; 3. Joel ; 4. Luke ; 5. James.

## BENJAMIN.

Andrew Benjamin and Mary Pierce his wife had children :

1. Stephen, b. Feb. 13, 1778 ; 2. Amos, b. Jan. 6, 1780 ; 3. Betsey, b. Aug. 13, 1781 ; 4. Francis, b. Apr. 9, 1784 ; 5. Jonathan, b. May 20,

---

\* The figure is worn off the Records.

1786 ; 6. Charles, b. March 7, 1789 ; 7. Levi, b. July 18, 1791 ; 8. Polly, b. May 13, 1794 ; 9. Sally, b. Oct. 26, 1796. The two eldest were born in Ashby, Betsey in Fitzwilliam, and the last six in Winchendon.

## BIGELOW.

Roger Bigelow and Mary his wife had children :

1. Eunice, b. Apr. 24, 1783 ; 2. Mercy, b. July 4, 1785 ; 3. Samuel, b. Sept. 11, 1787 ; 4. Alpheus, b. Aug. 4, 1789 ; 5. Ezra P., b. July, 1791.

Solomon Bigelow was the father of

1. Benjamin ; 2. Ebenezer ; 3. Sally ; 4. Patty ; 5. Asa.

Ebenezer Bigelow, m. Sally Wales. Children :

1. Grate, b. Oct. 19, 1796 ; 2. Joseph, b. May 6, 1798 ; 3. John, b. Jan. 31, 1800 ; 4. Louis, b. May 18, 1802 ; 5. Sally, b. June 29, 1804.

## BIXBY.

Daniel Bixby was here in 1763 ; Nathaniel in 1764.

Levi Bixby, son of Nathaniel and Jerusha [Houghton] Bixby, his wife, of Lancaster, was born Aug. 7, 1743, and moved to Winchendon about the time of his marriage with Ruth Darling, which occurred Oct. 2, 1766. Children by first wife :

1 and 2. Lois and Eunice, twins, b. Apr. 5, 1768. Lois m., Sept. 28, 1794, Obil Fassett, and lived in Jaffrey, where some of her descendants now reside. Eunice m. Barnabas Miller and moved to Westboro. 3. Zibiah, b. Oct. 17, 1770. and m. Ephraim Murdock ; 4. Lucinda, b. May 8, 1773, m. Gardner Wilder, and had several children ; 5. Levi, b. Feb. 2, 1776, m. Nancy Pierce, March 29, 1803. He moved to Boston. Mrs. Bixby d. in 1778, and Mr. Bixby m., May 13, 1779, Tabitha Foster Boynton, widow of Stephen Boynton. Children : 6. Stephen, b. Dec. 8, 1780, killed Sept. 8, 1800, by insane Daniel Robbins ; 7. Ruth, b. Dec. 21, 1782, m. Richard Stuart, March 29, 1803 ; 8. Tabitha, b. Sept. 26, 1784, m., June 7, 1801, John Green, and moved to Paris, Oneida Co., N. Y. ; 9. Persis, b. Oct. 5, 1786, m. Sept. 17, 1805, Andrew Fowler, and moved to Rupert, Vt.

Levi Bixby died Oct. 5, 1803, and his widow married for her third husband, Nov. 13, 1810, Benjamin Eddy, b. Oct. 20, 1739, and was gr. gr. grandson of " John Eddy who came to Plymouth from Suffolk Co., England, Oct. 29, 1630." He was a soldier in Col. Putnam's regiment in the Revolution. Widow Tabitha, who seems to have provided a home for her last two husbands, died Feb. 10, 1845, aged 96 years, at the house of her son-in-law, Richard Stuart.

Nathaniel Bixby was a brother of Levi, and m. a sister of Samuel Brown. Children :

1. Amos ; 2. Hannah ; 3. Lincoln ; 4. Betsey.

Keziah Bixby, sister of the above, was the wife of Richard Parsons, and of Amos Heywood.

Daniel and Jonathan Bixby were not brothers of Levi. The former had these children :

1. Daniel, b. in 1763 ; Aaron, b. in 1765.

Adonijah Bixby and Mary his wife had children :

1. Abel ; 2. Polly ; 3. Lucy ; 4. Dolly ; 5. Adonijah ; 6. Sarah, all born between 1782 and 1792.

#### BOSWORTH.

Walsingham Bosworth m. Mary Piper. Children :

1. Anna, b. Dec. 26, 1798 ; 2. Nabby, b. March 31, 1800 ; 3. Olive, b. June 27, 1801 ; 4. Katharine, b. March 15, 1804 ; 5. Josiah P., b. June 19, 1808 ; 6. Jonathan, b. Sept. 18, 1810.

#### BOWKER.

Asa Bowker, Sen. m. Hannah Harwood. Children :

William and Asa.

William and Sally Bowker had children :

1. Dexter, b. Apr. 22, 1806 ; 2. Sullivan, b. March 28, 1808 ; 3 and 4. John and Aaron, b. Apr. 8, 1811.

Asa and Joanna Bowker had children :

1. Esther, b. Sept. 9, 1817 ; 2. Abigail, b. Jan. 16, 1819 ; 3. Levi, b. Feb. 4, 1821 ; 5. Ephraim, b. Jan. 25, 1825 ; 6. Joanna, b. March 26, 1828 ; 7. Abigail, b. July 4, 1830. The last three were children of his wife Nabby.

#### BOYNTON.

Benoni Boynton was here in 1754. He and a brother (probably Ephraim, who was a settler as early as 1762,) held a large lot extending from a point near the Tallow Hill school-house, east so far as to include nearly all of Bullardville. It reached south of Levi Parks' house. It included upland, lowland and water privileges. They had a block-house in the French and Indian war, in Bullardville, between the road and the river, south of the present Parks pond. One day, hearing a click, and seeing over the bushes the head of an Indian, they took refuge in the block-house. Then taking a gun, they fled to the McElwain, or more probably, the Day tavern, in the Centre. The author knows nothing of the descendants of Benoni and Ephraim Boynton. After the war the block-house was taken down, and set up as a dwelling-house, by the great elm east of the school-house, where Mrs. Eddy used to reside. The two Boyntons were on the first board of Selectmen in 1764.

Stephen Boynton was probably a son of one of the above-named, or a brother of both. His name first appears in 1771. He died previous to 1779, because his widow, Tabitha Foster Boynton, was married to Levi Bixby on the 2d of May, 1779. Her third husband was Benjamin Eddy. As both Bixby and Eddy, her second and third husbands, resided on the Boynton place, by the great elm, it is probable that Mrs. Eddy held the property from her first husband, Stephen Boynton, and that he was the heir of Benoni or Ephraim. The children of Stephen and Tabitha, his wife :



1. Sally, b. June 13, 1772; 2. Lucy, b. Jan. 7, 1774; 3. Sukey, b. Nov. 22, 1776.

Joseph Boynton came hither in 1765, and settled on the farm now owned by Jedediah Morse. He, like the preceding, came from old Rowley, where he was born, July 5, 1738. In 1766, he m. Zeruah Wilder of Sterling, b. Nov. 6, 1746. He d. in 1820; she in 1839. His children were:

1. Joseph, b. Jan. 18, 1767; 2. Daniel, born in W. Sept. 17, 1772, m. Dolly, dau. of Paul Boynton, March 1, 1795, d. June 10, 1845. Children: Mary, b. July 23, 1796, and others.

Ephraim Boynton and Abigail his wife had children:

1. Irena, b. Dec. 9, 1765; 2. Jonathan, b. Aug. 1, 1766.

John Boynton came to W. in 1769, and settled on the farm now owned by Capt. E. Murdock, Jr. He removed to Wethersfield, Vt., and the Payson family bought the place. Children:

1. John, b. Aug. 31, 1769; 2. David, b. Dec. 20, 1771; 3. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 21, 1773; 4. Sarah, b. Feb. 16, 1776; 5. Hannah, b. July 10, 1778; 6. Cyrus, b. June 14, 1780; 7. Nancy, b. June 12, 1782.

Major Paul Boynton settled where Dea. R. Hyde now resides. He was b. Oct. 21, 1751, and m. Abigail Fairbanks, b. Dec. 31, 1759. Their daughter Dolly m. her cousin, Daniel Boynton. She was b. Jan. 20, 1778; d. Feb. 16, 1855.

Mrs. M. D. Poland, wife of Stephen Poland, is the daughter of Daniel and Dolly Boynton, and so the granddaughter of both Joseph and Paul Boynton. Paul Boynton had also:

2. Nabby; 3. Benjamin; 4. Sally; 5. Paul; 6. John.

Levi Boynton and Mary his wife had children:

1. Erastus D., b. Oct. 14, 1805; 2. Alfred W., b. Sept. 14, 1807; 3. Harrison L., b. July 26, 1809.

#### BRADISH.

Robert Bradish.

Robert Bradish, son of Robert, m. Lucy Jackson.

Robert Bradish and Nabbe his wife had children:

1. Thomas; 2. Lucy; 3. Polly; 4. Lydia; all born between 1794 and 1800.

Samuel Bradish and Hannah his wife had:

Samuel b. Oct. 2, 1783.

Jonas Bradish and Jerusha his wife had children:

1. Jerusha, b. Oct. 9, 1772; 2. James, b. Dec. 31, 1774; 3. Samuel M., b. Dec. 12, 1777.

James Bradish, son of Jonas, m. Polly Moore.

#### BRIDGE.

Francis Bridge and Eunice his wife had:

1. Patty, b. Feb. 1, 1774; 2. Eunice, b. March 27, 1776; 3. Francis,

b. July 4, 1778; 4. Ruhamah, b. March 30, 1781; 5. Levi, b. Feb. 15, 1784; 6. Oliver, b. July 20, 1785.

## BROOKS.

John Brooks m. Lois Barr. Children :

1. John A., b. Feb. 19, 1789; 2. Jonas, b. March 31, 1791; 3. daughter, lived three weeks, b. Oct., 1793; 4. William, b. Nov. 31, 1794; 5. Hepzibah, b. Sept. 14, 1797; 6. William B., b. Sept. 24, 1800.

Levi Brooks m. Betsey Flint. Children :

1. John, b. March 6, 1785; 2. Betsey, b. Apr. 17, 1788; 3. Peggy, b. Aug. 16, 1790; 4. Nancy, b. June 25, 1793.

Joel Brooks and Tamesin his wife had :

Lydia, b. March 7, 1792.

## BROWN.

Benjamin Brown and Esther his wife had children :

1. Amasa, b. May 23, 1770; 2. Cyrus, b. May 23, 1772; 3. Benjamin, b. Nov. 6, 1774; 4. Esther, b. Oct. 3, 1776; 5. Patty, b. Dec. 23, 1778; 6. Betty, b. Nov. 30, 1780; 7. Olive, b. Nov. 7, 1782; 8. Caty, b. May 16, 1785; 9. James, b. June 5, 1787; 10. Artemas, (a physician in Medway,) b. Apr. 3, 1789. The four first were born in Templeton; the rest in this town.

Samuel Brown and Lavina his wife had children :

1. Asaph, b. Jan. 21, 1778, m. Martha, dau. of Hon. Abel Wilder; 2. Mercy, b. Sept. 31, 1779, m. Wm. Tolman; 3. Abigail, b. June 11, 1782, m. Dea. Paul Raymond; 4. Dolly, the mother of Hon. Wm. B. Spooner; 5. William; 6. John; 7. Samuel; 8. Lucy.

Amos H. Brown, b. July 16, 1785, m. Betsey Borman, b. July 11, 1786. Children :

1. Hezekiah B., b. May 26, 1810; 2. Charles M.; 3. Amos H.; 4. Elizabeth; 5. John B.; 6. Sally M.; 7. Charles M.; 8. Polly.

Hezekiah and Huldah Brown had children :

1. Amos; 2. Luke; 3. Hervey; 4. Eliza; 5. James S.; 6. Harriet N.

Rev. Joseph Brown and Sarah his wife had children :

1. Elizabeth, b. July 20, 1765; 2. Jane, b. Feb. 27, 1767; 3. Joseph, b. Nov. 26, 1768; 4. James, b. Apr. 24, 1771; 5. James, b. Nov. 13, 1772; 6. Sarah, b. Jan. 5, 1775; 7. Mary, b. May 19, 1778; 8. John, b. Feb. 22, 1780; 9. Amos, b. July 14, 1782.

Samuel Brown, 2d, m. Eunice Hagar. Children :

1. William; 2. Eunice; 3. Mary; 4. Charles D.

## BURNEYMAN OR BORMAN.

Charles G. Martin Burneyman or Borman, and Chloe his wife had children :

1. Mary Massey, b. Feb. 27, and seven others.

## BUTTRICK.

Daniel Buttrick and Eunice his wife had children :

1. Daniel, b. Jan. 23, 1783 ; 2. Lucy, b. Apr. 7, 1785, died soon ; 3. Lucy, b. Aug. 6, 1787 ; 4. Silas, b. Feb. 8, 1790 ; 5. David, b. Apr. 22, 1792 ; 6. Jonathan, b. Apr. 26, 1794 ; 7. Jonas, b. June 22, 1796 ; 8. Mary, b. Feb. 7, 1799.

Abiel Buttrick and Eunice Heywood his wife had children :

1. Eunice, b. July 31, 1780 ; 2. Abiel, June 23, 1782 ; 3. Amos, b. Sept. 12, 1784 ; 4. Samuel, b. Nov. 19, 1786 ; 5. Betsey, b. Feb. 23, 1789 ; 6. Amos, b. Oct. 12, 1792 ; 7. Cyrus, b. Apr. 16, 1795.

## BURR.

John Burr and Sarah his wife had children :

1. John, b. March 4, 1784 ; 2. Samuel, b. Oct. 24, 1787 ; 3. Piam, b. May 14, 1792.

## CARTER.

Levi and Silence Carter had :

1. James, b. Nov. 23, 1774 ; 2. Joannah, b. July 28, 1777.

## CHASE.

Charles Chase m. Hannah Stewart. Children :

1. Silas, b. Nov. 27, 1794 ; 2. Lucy, b. May 12, 1798 ; 3. Hannah, b. June 23, 1800 ; 4. Charles, b. Jan. 11, 1806 ; 5. Mary, b. March 26, 1809.

## CHOATE.

Stephen and Bathsheba Choate had children :

1. Eunice, b. Apr. 13, 1765 ; 2. Lucy, b. May 15, 1766.

## COFFIN.

George Coffin, born in Boston, Feb. 13, 1761, a soldier in the Revolution, and deacon of the First Ch. Winchendon, m. Abigail, daughter of Col. Paul Raymond, died in 1852, aged 91. Children :

1. Polly, b. March 12, 1790 ; 2. Silas, b. June 27, 1792 ; 3. Phebe b. Apr. 14, 1795 ; 4. Eunice, b. July 1, 1797 ; 5. George, b. Oct. 1, 1797 ; 6. Nancy, b. May 12, 1802 ; 7. Rufus, b. June 19, 1805.

## CONANT.

Zebulon Conant and Mary had :

1. Ruth, b. May 2, 1772 ; 2. Ma—y b. Feb. 13, 1774.

## COOK.

John Cook and Anna his wife had children :

1. Anna, b. July 21, 1798 ; 2. Tryphena, b. Sept. 19, 1799 ; 3. Mary F., b. Apr. 23, 1801 ; 4. John, b. March 20, 1803 ; 5. John, b. March 15, 1805 ; 6. Deborah, b. July 30, 1806 ; 7. Martin, b. March 1, 1808 ; 8. Clarissa, b. Jan. 26, 1810 ; 9. Edward, b. June 12, 1812 ; 10. Ivas, b. May 21, 1814 ; 11. Abigail, b. May 17, 1816 ; 12. Eliza, b. March 26, 1820 ; 13. Joanna, Aug. 15, 1822.

## CRAGE OR CRAIG.

Samuel and Mary Craig had :

1. Samuel, b. Feb. 7, 1758 ; 2. May, b. July 29, 1760 ; 3. Anne, b. Apr. 20, 1762 ; 4. Sarah, b. May 4, 1764.

## CROSBY.

Samuel Crosby, Esq., b. Feb. 13, 1732, m. Azubah Howe of Worcester, b. Sept. 14, 1733. Children :

1. Sarah, b. Sept. 24, 1754 ; 2. Samuël, b. Sept. 12, 1756 ; 3. Simeon, b. Sept. 13, 1758 ; 4. Dorothy, b. Aug. 26, 1760 ; 5. John, b. Oct. 18, 1762 ; 6. Eusebia, b. Aug. 23, 1763 ; 7. Otis, b. Jan. 15, 1766 ; 8. John, b. Oct. 18, 1767 ; 9. Flavel, b. Jan. 26, 1770 ; 10. Arethusia, b. March 22, 1773 ; 11. Sophia, b. Jan. 9, 1775.

Flavel Crosby m. Lucy Howe. Children :

1. Ephraim G., b. Jan. 1, 1794 ; 2. Harriet, b. Oct. 6, 1796, d. Nov. 12, 1800 ; 3. Samuel, b. Oct. 6, 1798, d. Nov. 20, 1800.

## CURTICE OR CURTISS.

Abner Curtice, m. Ruth Hale. Children :

1. Abner ; 2. Moses, and others, it is supposed.

Abner, Jr., m. Betsey Pike.

Moses, m. Betsey Benjamin. Children :

1. Roxana, b. July 8, 1799 ; 2. Humphrey ; 3. Moses ; 4. Evelina ; 5. Evelina ; 6. Lucy ; 7. Charles B. ; 8. Charles ; 9. Elizabeth ; 10. Levi C., b. May 30, 1823.

## CUTLER.

Dr. William H. Cutler m. Abigail Lowe. Children :

1. William J., b. Apr. 9, 1815 ; 2. Abigail H., b. June 8, 1816 ; 3. Abraham L., b. June 3, 1818.

## DARLING.

John Darling was here as early as 1754. After the French and Indian war, some Indians affirmed that they once watched, with intent to kill, John Darling, as he was mowing grass in a natural meadow, near Fitzwilliam line. Says Dr. Whiton : " he was a portly, athletic man, whose large, prominent eyes I well remember ; but the whites of his eyes were so big and glaring, they dared not fire at him." Indian superstition saved his life. In 1764, John and Timothy Darling were among the first town officers, as tything-man, surveyor of highways and deer-reeve. The Darling lot was a large one, where Henry Keith now lives, with a gore extending up to the road south of the Ephraim Flint place. There was a Darling house near Mr. Keith's, and also near the road, south from Mr. Flint's. John Darling and his wife Ruth had children :

1. Joseph, b. July, 26, 1762 ; 2. Priscilla and Calvin, b. June 13, 1765.
- Ruth Darling m. Levi Bixby, Oct. 2., 1766.

Jewett B. Darling m., in 1790, Deborah Murdock, and had three daughters.

Timothy Darling and his wife Joanna had children :

1. Daniel, b. July 9, 1761 ; 2. Oliver, b. Oct. 13, 1763 ; 3. Anna, b. Sept. 19, 1765.

## DAY.

Dea. Richard Day, m. Ruth Pushey. Children :

1. John, b. Aug. 31, 1749 ; 2. Hannah, b. Aug. 31, 1752 ; these two were b. at Groton ; 3. Nathan, b. in Lunenburg, Oct. 2, 1754 ; the following were born in Winchendon : 4. Sarah, b. Apr. 11, 1757 ; 5. Ruth, b. Oct. 27, 1759 ; 6. Daniel, b. July 27, 1762 ; 7. Sylvia, b. Oct. 17, 1764 ; 8. Elizabeth, b. May 12, 1767 ; 9. Lydia, b. Aug. 3, 1770 ; 10. Susannah, b. Sept. 9, 1773.

John Day, Sen., son of Richard, m. Betsey Joselyn. Children :

1. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 20, 1771 ; 2. John, b. March 14, 1773 ; 3. Joseph, b. March 27, 1775 ; 4. Lucy, b. June 14, 1777 ; 5. Hannah, b. Dec. 29, 1779 ; 6. Richard, b. March 6, 1782 ; 7. Peter, b. June 6, 1785 ; 8. Daniel, b. Feb. 17, 1787 ; 9. Susanna, b. June 8, 1789.

Daniel Day, son of Richard, m. Ambrey Bruce. Children :

1. Charlotte C., b. May 12, 1800 ; 2. Gilman L., b. Apr. 1, 1802 ; 3. Lucy T. ; 4. Betsey R. ; 5. Ambrey B. ; 6. Susan M. ; 7. Sarah W., 8. Mary S. ; 9. Alathine H.

John Day, son of John, Sen., m. Elizabeth —, and had Mason S. and several daughters.

Daniel Day, son of John, Sen., m. Eunice Rice, and had a large family.

## DIVOLL.

Levi Divoll and Grace Wilder his wife had children :

1. Sally, b. Nov. 2, 1790 ; 2. Levi, b. Oct. 19, 1792 ; 3. Nancy, b. Aug. 31, 1794 ; 4. Sophronia, b. Aug. 17, 1796 ; 5. Alden, b. Feb. 13, 1798 ; 6. Hervey, b. June 16, 1801 ; 7. Myrendia, b. Dec. 13, 1803 ; 8. Caroline B., b. March 21, 1806 ; 9. David W., b. March 4, 1808 ; 10. Josiah F., b. Oct. 9, 1814.

## EDMANDS.

Amos Edmands and Lydia his wife had children :

1. Esther, b. Feb. 28, 1784 ; 2. Artemas, b. Oct. 6, 1785, m. Esther Hyde. (The second wife of Amos was Abigail.) 3. Anne, b. Apr. 20, 1801.

## ELLIS.

Jesse Ellis and his wife Miriam had children :

1. Miriam, b. Apr. 7, 1780 ; 2. Zipporah, b. Nov. 29, 1782 ; 3. Jesse, b. June 19, 1789.

## EMORY.

Francis Emory and Eunice Philbrick had children :

1. Grata, b. Oct. 17, 1796 ; 2. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 23, 1798, both in Grafton, Vt. ; 3. John, b. Nov. 20, 1799 ; 4. Eunice, b. Apr. 30, 1803 ; 5. Lucretia, b. Feb. 24, 1805 ; 7. Louisa, b. Oct. 3, 1807.

Stephen Emery and Lydia Kimball his wife had children :

1. Betsey, b. at Wenham, Aug. 29, 1769 ; 2. Sally, b. at Boxford, Jan. 26, 1777 ; 3. Lydia, b. at Winchendon, March 31, 1779 ; 4. Stephen, b. Feb. 18, 1781 ; 5. John, b. March 7, 1783 ; 6. Nancy, b. Apr. 4, 1785 ; 7. Oliver, b. March 4, 1787. Lucy and Olive were born in 1807, 1811.

#### EVANS.

Jonathan Evans and Mehitabel Sherwin his wife had :

1. Mehitabel, b. Jan. 17, 1775 ; 2. Martha, b. Apr. 7, 1776 ; 3. Jonathan ; 4. George.

#### FAIRBANKS.

Ephraim Fairbanks m. Sukey Weston. Children :

1. Ephraim W., b. May 12, 1814 ; 2. Levi Nelson, b. May 12, 1816 ; 3. Elisha W., b. Aug. 31, 1818 ; 4. Stephen W., b. May 5, 1842.

#### FARRAR.

Daniel Farrar m. Ednah Boynton. Children :

1. Silas, b. Nov. 22, 1777 ; 2. Lucy, b. Feb. 4, 1779 ; 3. Molly, b. Sept. 11, 1780 ; 4. Daniel, b. Feb. 15, 1784.

Daniel, son of Daniel, m. Rebekah —. Children :

1. Dennis, b. Jan. 29, 1806, d. June 29, 1807 ; 2. Sibbel, b. Sept. 28, 1807 ; 3. Salmon S., b. Aug. 17, 1809 ; 4. Rebekah, b. Aug. 18, 1813.

#### FESSENDEN.

John Fessenden d. Feb. 15, 1810. He was a revolutionary soldier, and lived between Levi Stearns and the Joseph Adams place, on the east side.

#### FLAGG.

John Flagg was b. at Hinsdale, Jan. 4, 1760, m. Betsey Blanchard. Children :

1. John, his son, b. Oct. 25, 1790 ; 2. Lucinda, b. Sept. 13, 1792 ; 3. Alpheus, b. Apr. 11, 1796 ; 4. Philena, b. June 13, 1804.

#### FLINT.

Thomas Flint b. in Concord, March 6, 1759, son of John, and gr. gr. grandson of Thomas, who with his brother, Rev. Thomas Flint, came to Boston in 1635, from Matuck, Derbyshire, Eng. He, that is, Thomas, m. Abigail Brown, Apr. 19, 1789, and some time after came to W. He d. in 1840 ; his wife in 1815. Children :

1. John, b. Dec. 31, 1789 ; d. Oct. 10, 1847 ; 2. Hepzibah, b. Apr. 8, 1791, d. Aug. 1851 ; 3. Thomas, b. April 14, 1794, m. Tryphena Cook in 1819 ; 4. Eleazar, b. Feb. 29, 1796 ; 5. David, b. Sept. 6, 1797, m. Prudence Whitcomb, d. Jan. 2, 1858 ; 6. Dolly, b. Oct. 3, 1800, m. a Whitman of Westminster ; 7. Abigail, b. Apr. 1, 1802, m. Joseph Whitney, Oct. 20, 1821, d. Dec. 17, 1837 ; 8. William, b. June 3, 1805, m., May 7, 1839, Rhoda Pollard.

Nathan Flint, elder brother of Thomas, b. in 1755, in Concord, and came to W. about the same time. Children :

1. Mary, b. June 24, 1782, d. May 16, 1834; 2. Abigail, b. Oct. 8, 1783, died young; 3. Nathan, b. Oct. 17, 1785, died young; 4. Abigail; 5. Nathan, b. May 11, 1788; 6. Ephraim, b. Nov. 10, 1789; 7. Hannah, b. Nov. 9, 1791; 8. Martha, b. Aug. 27, 1793; 9. Hepzibah, b. May 12, 1795, m. Wm. Harris; 10. David B., b. Sept. 23, 1797; 11. John, b. Nov. 8, 1799; 12. Charlotte, b. Jan. 5, 1802, m. Mr. Nutting, and for second husband, Joseph Whitney, Jan. 3, 1842; 13. Almira, b. Jan. 31, 1806.

## FOSTER.

David Foster and Elizabeth his wife had children:

1. Betsey, b. March 1, 1781; 2. Susannah, b. Jan. 11, 1783.

## FRY.

Job Fry, born in Bridgewater, m. Pernal Drake. Children:

1. James; 2. Mary, m. Hiram Lewis of Athol; 3. Phebe; 4. Mason; 5. Job; 6. Richard; 7. Martin; 8. Silas; 9. Calvin; 10. Susan H., m. Aaron Bowker.

## GILL.

John Gill.

Joshua Gill, (son of John,) and Lucy his wife had children:

1. Lucy, b. May 17, 1807; 2. Hannah, b. Aug. 13, 1808; 3. Joshua, b. Aug. 21, 1810; 4. Warren, b. Aug. 19, 1812; 5. Mary T., b. Aug. 3, 1814; 6. Charles, b. May 25, 1816.

## GOODHUE.

Francis Goodhue was chosen Treasurer of the Proprietors in 1751. He was a descendant of Rev. Francis Goodhue, minister of Jamaica, L. I., who died in 1707. John Goodhue drew lot No. 29, north division, and Joseph Goodhue, No. 20, south division, in 1737. Both had a share in the next drawing. Probably Francis was son to one of them, and if so, most probably Joseph, as he had a grandson named Joseph.

His son Francis lived west of the Nichols tavern, (where it is supposed the first Francis resided.) He m. Polly, daughter of Rev. Joseph Brown, in 1794. Afterwards he settled in Brattleboro, Vt., and as a trader became rich. He had sons, Joseph and Wells. The daughter of Joseph was the wife of Hon. Frederic Holbrook, ex-Gov. of Vermont.

Amos Goodhue, m. Sally Payson, and lived in a house where the North Cong'l Ch. now stands. Children:

Hitty Payson, and David Payson.

John Goodhue, m. Mary McFarland, and lived on the Capt. Stillman Hale place.

## GOODRIDGE.

Daniel Goodridge, came to W. in 1762. His house was where the Poor-House now stands. He m. Hannah Low of Lunenburg in 1766. He d. Apr. 12, 1821, aged 81; she d. Feb. 7, 1820, aged 75. Children:

1. Benjamin, b. Aug. 5, 1767, d. Feb. 29, 1824; 2. Daniel, b. Aug. 24, 1769, moved to New York, and died; 3. Elijah, b. Nov. 16, 1771; d. Ju-

ly 15, 1773; 4. Sarah, b. March 13, 1774, m. Isaac Willard, Feb. 5, 1798; 5. Polly, b. Oct. 20, 1776, d. Aug. 15, 1778; 6. Mary, b. March 20, 1779, m. Amasa Whitney; 7. Hannah, b. Apr. 17, 1781, m., Mar. 6, 1808, James McAfee; 8. Jonathan, b. March 2, 1785, moved to New York; 9. Lowell, b. Feb. 2, 1790, m. Rachel Knight, and then Lydia Wilder White.

David Goodridge came in 1762, and settled where Jonas Nutting now lives. Mr. Nutting's father married his daughter. He, like the preceding, was a member of the First Church. They were not brothers; their relationship, if any, is not known. He died in 1813, aged 66.

Philip Goodridge was here as early as 1761, and Benjamin as early as 1762. The latter was on a committee to "stake out a meeting-house lot" in 1762.

David Goodridge and Silence his wife had children:

1. David, b. Apr. 24, 1774;
2. Jonas, b. Dec. 8, 1775;
3. Silence, b. Dec. 9, 1777;
4. Betty, b. Nov. 15, 1779;
5. Dolly, b. Nov. 12, 1781;
6. Anna, b. Jan. 31, 1784;
7. David, b. Apr. 11, 1787;
8. A son;
9. Calvin, b. May 18, 1782.

David Goodridge, Jr., and Susanna had children:

1. Maryanna;
2. Susan H.;
3. Calvin G.;
4. David J.;
5. Betsey Boynton.

#### GOULD.

Daniel Gould and Mary his wife had children:

1. Daniel Green, b. July 22, 1770;
2. Mary, b. July 8, 1772;
3. David, b. June 4, 1775.

#### GREATON.

Thomas Graton or Greaton was the son of an English soldier, who took French leave of the British army while passing through Worcester Co. under Lord Amherst, it is supposed. Graton was not his original name. Thomas m. Rebecca or Becca Chaplin, and had children:

1. Smyrna, b. June 29, 1791;
2. Sally P., b. March 16, 1793;
3. Marsena, b. Jan. 19, 1795;
4. Tamar, b. June 20, 1798;
5. Leona, b. May 8, 1800;
6. LaFayette, b. Feb. 13, 1804;
7. Alvin, b. August 2, 1806, died;
8. Alvin, b. May 24, 1808.

#### GREENWOOD.

Thomas Greenwood and Deborah Barber his wife had children:

1. Henry, b. May 1, 1791;
2. Sophia, b. July 16, 1793;
3. Levi, b. July 29, 1797.

#### GROUT.

Isaac Grout m. Sally Stearns. Children:

1. John, b. March 31, 1786;
2. Phebe;
3. Cyrus;
4. Lewis;
5. Isaac;
6. Betsey;
7. Lorey. His second wife was Rebekah ———.
8. Sally;
9. Rebekah;
10. Samuel B.;
11. Hannah, b. Apr. 15, 1820.



## GUY.

Alpheus Guy and Betsey his wife had children :

1. Sarah ; 2. Elizabeth B. ; 3. Hannah ; 4. Elvira D.

## HALE.

Moses Hale was born in Boxford, June 5, 1742, m. Ruth Foster, July 2, 1769 ; came to W. May 3, 1770. He died May 31, 1828, aged 86 ; wife died Jan. 11, 1837. Their children were :

1. Eunice, m. Abel Wilder, Jr. ; 2. Ruth, m. Eliot Payson ; both removed to Madison Co., N. Y. ; 3. Lucy, alive in 1866, aged 89 years ; 4. Moses, m. Mary Flint in 1807 ; he was a bright man ; lived in New York for a while ; lost all his family but one son, in Columbus, Miss. ; went to live with him, and died there in 1843 ; 5. Achsa, m. Joseph Cooledge of Gardner ; 6. Artemas, m. Deborah Lincoln, of Hingham, in 1815, and has since resided in Bridgewater.

Besides his brothers, mentioned below, Dea. Hale had two sisters ; 1. Ruth, m. Abner Curtice, and 2. Judith, m. Absalom Towne. They came from Boxford not far from the time of Dea. Hale's coming. About the year 1795, when many left the place for the then "west," Mr. Towne settled in Madison Co., N. Y. Mrs. Towne d. March 18, 1854, aged 106½ years.

Abner Hale, brother of Moses, b. July 22, 1737, came to W. in 1766. He removed to Madison Co., N. Y., with Mr. Towne.

Jacob Hale, brother of Moses, b. Dec. 19, 1744, m. Ruth Towne, b. Oct. 2, 1746, came to W. in 1770. Their children were :

1. Asa, b. Feb. 2, 1768 ; 2. Ruth, b. Apr. 2, 1770 ; 3. Anna, b. June 22, 1772 ; 4. Jacob, b. June 25, 1774 ; 5. Thomas, b. Feb. 14, 1776 ; 6. Abel, b. Nov. 30, 1777 ; 7. Polly, b. Dec. 11, 1779 ; 8. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 7, 1782 ; 9. Daniel, b. Sept. 4, 1785 ; 10. Joseph, b. Feb. 21, 1787 ; 11. Miriam, b. Nov. 26, 1788.

Asa Hale, son of Jacob, m. Sally Hancock ; he d. Dec. 30, 1852, aged 84 ; she d. Apr. 25, 1852. Their children were :

1. Stillman, b. May 1, 1797 ; 2. Lyman ; 3. Persis ; 4. Sally ; 5. Olive ; 6. Elmira.

Jacob Hale, son of Jacob, m. Betsey Brown, d. in 1843. They were m. May 29, 1806. Children :

1. Syrena ; 2. Sally ; 3. Amos, m. Mary, dau. of Jesse Raymond ; 4. Betsey ; 5. Priscilla ; 6. Joseph, m. Adaline Chase ; 7. Lucy, m. Levi W. Fokett ; 8. Sally, m. Stephen Sampson ; 9. Mary, m. Daniel Chase ; 10. Syrena, m. Wm. Sawtell ; 11. Elizabeth ; 12. Freeman S., m. Maria Sibley, and Mrs. Eliza K. Hale.

Nathaniel, son of Jacob, m. Margaret Hale, b. May 29, 1784. Children :

1. Nathaniel W., b. March 21, 1807, m. Sarah Guy ; 2. Merritt, b. Oct. 1, 1809 ; m. Harriet Johnson ; 3. Albert, b. Oct. 11, 1811, m. Harriet Brown ; 4. Julia A. b. June 17, 1813, m. Wm. Wilder ; 5. Sally M., b. July 12, 1818, m. John Fitts ; 6. Nancy, b. March 27, 1820. Nathaniel d. Oct. 11, 1857, aged 85.

Daniel, son of Jacob, left a daughter, now Mrs. Frank Priest.

Amos Hale, brother of Moses, b. May 25, 1752, m. Sally Day; came to W. in 1770. Children :

1. Sarah, b. Jan. 8, 1780 ; 2. Mary, b. Feb. 19, 1782 ; 3. Amos, b. May 9, 1784 ; 4. Nathan, b. June 23, 1786 ; 5. Obed, b. Oct. 23, 1788 ; 6. Edward, b. Oct. 29, 1790 ; 7. Salmon, b. March 10, 1793 ; 8. Laura, b. June 3, 1795 ; 9. Justus, b. Apr. 27, 1797.

#### HALL.

Benjamin Hall m. Sally, dau. of Rev. Joseph Brown. Children :

1. Henry, b. Oct. 25, 1796 ; 2. Betsey, b. Jan. 23, 1799.

#### HANCOCK.

Timothy Hancock and Lucy Stoddard his wife had children :

1. Lot, b. Feb. 12, 1792 ; 2. Persis, b. July 8, 1794 ; 3. Bill, b. Feb. 1, 1796 ; 4. Zenas, b. Jan. 20, 1798 ; 5. Orras, b. Apr. 19, 1800 ; 6. Benjamin H. b. Apr. 10, 1802 ; 7. Lucy A., b. Aug. 21, 1804 ; 8. James A., b. Aug. 7, 1806 ; 9. Cirisman, b. July 12, 1808 ; 10. Lucy A., b. Apr. 2, 1811.

Rufus Hancock, son of Hezekiah, of Wrentham, b. in Winchendon, Aug. 21, 1780, m. Sally Bacon. Children :

1. Benjamin F., b. Nov. 25, 1803 ; 2. William M., b. March 16, 1806 ; 3. Artemas H., b. Aug. 13, 1809 ; 4. Ozro, b. Jan. 10, 1812.

Bill Hancock, son of Samuel, of Wrentham, died suddenly in 1792.

#### HAPGOOD.

John and Betsey Hapgood, had children :

1. George, d. young ; 2. Charles, b. Feb. 27, 1806 ; 3. Willard ; 4. Sally ; 5. Sally ; 6. Dana ; 7. Abigail ; 8. Mary ; 9. Rhoanna ; 10. Jane, b. June 4, 1821, m. Bethuel Ellis, Esq. ; 11. Otis W.

#### HENSHAW.

Daniel Henshaw and Deborah B. his wife had children :

1. Frances E., b. July 25, 1824 ; 2. Daniel H., b. Sept. 25, 1827.

#### HEYWOOD.

Dea. Amos Heywood, m. the widow of Richard Parsons, born, Keziah Bixby, sister of Levi Bixby. Children :

1. Susan, b. March 27, 1786 ; m. Thomas Knowlton ; 2. Sally, b. July 4, 1789, m. Mr. Carter.

His second wife was widow Elizabeth Cogswell, mother of Mrs. Richard Whitney.

Daniel Heywood, brother of Amos, m. Hannah Fairbanks. Children :

1. Betsey, b. Nov. 24, 1783 ; 2. Hannah, b. Apr. 24, 1785 ; 3. Betsey, b. Aug. 17, 1787 ; 4. Daniel, b. Oct. 7, 1790 ; 5. Alpha, b. Sept. 15, 1792 ; 6. Miriam, b. June 2, 1794 ; 7. Alpheus, b. Apr. 11, 1797 ; 8. Ira, b. Apr. 6, 1799, d. May 25, 1799 ; 9. Eliel, b. Feb. 9, 1801 ; 10. Solyman, b. Jan. 5, 1805.

Lieut. Levi Heywood, br. of Amos and Daniel, lived at the Ephraim Flint place. He m. Beulah Buttrick. He d. June 21, 1799. Children :

1. Amos ; 2. Levi ; 3. Beulah ; 4. Mary ; 5. Cyrus.

Capt. Lemuel Heywood, cousin of the above, also lived on the E. Flint place, m. Lucy Heywood, a cousin, and had children :

1. Rufus, b. Oct. 12, 1782 ; 2. Reuben, b. Dec. 27, 1783 ; 3. Luke, b. Dec. 9, 1785 ; 4. George, b. Nov. 30, 1787 ; 5. Rial, b. Feb. 25, 1790 ; 6. Lucy, b. March 23, 1792, m. Simeon Stearns ; 7. Samuel, b. July 4, 1794 ; 8. Hepzibah S., b. Oct. 1, 1796, m. Phinehas Parks, Jr. ; 9. Eliza, b. May 8, 1799.

His second wife was Abigail or Nabby Parsons, dau. of Richard Parsons. Children :

10. Richard P., b. Dec. 1, 1801, d. Sept. 26, 1825 ; 11. Nabbe B., b. Feb. 28, 1803 ; 12. Bushrod V., b. July 29, 1804, d. Sept. 28, 1805 ; 13. Sally R., b. Jan. 19, 1806 ; 14. Caroline C., b. Nov. 6, 1807, m. Levi Parks ; 15. Horatio N., b. Apr. 2, 1809 ; 16. Adaline B., b. May 5, 1812 ; 17. Lemuel A., b. Apr. 3, 1814.

#### HOLMAN.

Capt. Nathaniel Holman, b. at Bolton, July 5, 1767, m. Charlotte Bruce, b. at Berlin, Jan. 31, 1783. Children :

1. Charlotte B., b. Apr. 22, 1806 ; 2. Betsey T., b. Dec. 19, 1807 ; 3. Nathaniel, b. Sept. 10, 1809.

#### HOUGHTON.

Robert Houghton and Sarah his wife had children :

1. John, b. Feb. 2, 1791 ; 2. Asaph, b. Oct. 8, 1792 ; 3. Ephraim, b. Feb. 18, 1795 ; 4. Sally, b. March 22, 1797 ; 5. William, b. Oct. 26, 1798 ; 6. Cyrus, b. Apr. 19, 1799 ; 7. Lucy, b. March 17, 1801 ; 8. Cyrus, b. March 17, 1803 ; 9. Abigail J., b. Dec. 12, 1805 ; 10. Susan F., b. Oct. 4, 1811.

#### HOWE.

Ebenezer Howe and Elisabeth his wife had :

1. Tamesin, b. Aug. 31, 1770 ; 2. Parley, b. Nov. 7, 1773 ; 3. Ezekiel, b. March 20, 1775 ; 4. Sarah, b. Dec. 11, 1777.

#### HYDE.

Ezra Hyde, son of Job and Prudence Hyde, of Newton, b. Nov. 1749 ; m. Elizabeth Whiting, Dec. 1773, moved to W, 1774 ; he d. 1837, aged 88 ; she was b. in Sherborn, in Aug., 1851, d. in 1840, aged 88. Children :

1. Ezra Jr., the historian, b. Sept. 1774, d. Oct., 1849, aged 75 ; 2. Asa, b. 1776, d. July, 1858, aged 82 ; 3. John, b. Feb. 1779, d. March, 1826, aged 47 ; 4. Elizabeth, b. 1781, d. 1817, aged 36 ; 5. Prudence, b. 1783, d. 1787 ; 6. Sally, b. 1785, d. 1786 ; 7. Prudence, b. 1788, m. Levi Priest ; 8. Sally, b. 1791, d. 1825, aged 34 ; 9. Job, b. 1794, d. 1821.

Ezra, Jr. m. Betsey Perley, Sept. 1806. Children :

1. Ezra, b. Aug., 1807 ; 2. daughter, b. 1811, d. soon. He married Polly,

dau. of James Raymond, in June, 1813, and had children : 3. Maria H., b. Apr., 1814, m. — Howe, of Gardner, in 1854 ; 4. James R., b. Feb. 1816 ; 5. Daniel H., b. Oct. 1818 ; 6. Alfred, b. Sept. 1820 ; 7. Warren, b. Nov. 1822 ; 8. John M., b. May, 1825 ; 9. Susan E., b. May, 1831.

Asa Hyde, son of the first Ezra, m. Betsey Hyde. Children :

1. Levi, b. Oct. 5, 1808, d. Jan. 15, 1811 ;
2. Levi, b. Jan. 15, 1811 ;
3. Phébe, b. Sept. 6, 1816 ;
4. Ward, b. Nov. 1, 1818.

John Hyde, son of Ezra, m. Abigail, dau. of Job and Elizabeth Hyde, in Nov. 1803. Their children were :

1. John, b. Sept., 1804 ;
2. Elisha, b. Oct. 1805 ;
3. Abigail, b. 1806 d. March, 1818 ;
4. Nancy, b. March, 1809, m. — Wetherbee, May, 1831, d. Sept. 1849 ;
5. Eliza, b. 1812 ; d. July, 1820 ;
6. Mary, b. 1818, d. 1825.

Job Hyde, brother of the first Ezra, and son of Job and Prudence Hyde, of Newton, b. March, 1752, m. Elizabeth Ward, Dec. 1779, moved to W. in 1796 ; he d. in 1824, aged 72 ; she d. in 1804, aged 45. Children, born in Newton :

1. Abigail, b. Nov. 1782 ; m. in 1803 ; d. May, 1859, aged 76 ;
2. Elizabeth, b. Sept., 1784, m. Oct. 1806 ; d. Jan., 1825, aged 41 ;
3. Job, b. Nov., 1786 ; m. Elizabeth Tolman, Nov., 1817 ;
4. George W., b. July, 1790, d. Oct. 1810 ;
5. Reuben, b. Oct. 1793, m. Sarah Wood, Dec. 1830 ;
6. Lucretia, b. Feb. 1798, m. Artemas Edmands, Dec., 1830, d. Feb. 1855 ;
7. Joel, b. March, 1800, d. Oct., 1810.

Job, son of Job and Elizabeth, had children :

1. Sarah T., b. Aug., 1818 ;
2. Joel, b. Oct., 1819 ; m. Eliza De-witt, Oct. 1849, and Katharine W. Dole, Dec., 1861, d. 1866.

#### JONES.

Capt. Abel Jones, Sen., m. Lucinda Heywood. Children :

Abel Jones, m. Hannah Knight. Children :

1. Harriet B., b. Sept. 23, 1807 ;
2. William R., both born in Fitzwilliam ;
3. Lucinda ;
4. Elizabeth K. ;
5. Mary S. ;
6. Sarah K. ;
7. Evelina.

#### JOSLIN OR JOSELYN.

Peter Joslin and Sally his wife had children :

1. Sally, b. Mar. 24, 1787 ;
2. Betsey, b. Jan. 1, 1789 ;
3. Peter, b. Nov. 24, 1790 ;
4. John, b. Sept. 24, 1792 ;
5. Polly, b. Aug. 10, 1794 ;
6. Persis, b. Sept. 23, 1798.

#### KEITH.

Apollos Keith came hither from Easton in 1799. He m. Mary Drake. Children :

1. Jason, b. in 1797 ;
2. Joshua, b. in 1803.

Joshua Keith, brother of Apollos, came about 1810. He m. Grace Underwood. Children :

1. Josephine ;
2. died young ;
3. Henry.

## KENDALL.

Caleb Kendall and Lucy his wife had Samuel, b. Oct. 11, 1792.

## KIDDER.

John Kidder and Dorothy his wife had children :

1. Samuel, b. May 5, 1785 ; 2. Sukey, b. Jan. 17, 1788.

Heywood Kidder m. Zilpah Phelps, and had children :

1. Levi, b. Jan. 19, 1798 ; 2. Almira, b. Oct. 12, 1800 ; 3. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 2, 1803 ; 4. Mary, b. Nov. 8, 1804.

## KNIGHT.

Matthew Knight lived here, but no trace of his family has been found in the Records.

Nathan Knight and Susannah his wife had children :

1. Aaron, b. Apr. 17, 1775 ; 2. Nathan, b. Jan. 12, 1778 ; 3. Luke, b. Sept. 4, 1782 ; 4. Levi, b. Apr. 24, 1786.

Aaron Knight m. Susan Putnam.

Aaron Knight m. Betsey Wilder. Children :

1. Levi, b. Sept. 16, 1808 ; 2. Philenus ; 3. Luke L. ; 4. Elam C. ; 5. Eliza Ann ; 6. Abel Wilder, b. Dec. 30, 1831.

Luke Knight and Rachel his wife had children :

1. Horatio L. ; 2. Harriet ; 3. Nathan ; 4. Almira.

## KNOWLTON.

Thomas Knowlton m. Susan or Sukey, dau. of Dea. Heywood. Children :

1. Mary H., b. Aug. 31, 1807 ; 2. Elizabeth S., b. July 8, 1809 ; 3. Lucy C., b. April 20, 1811 ; 4. Thomas S., b. May 20, 1813 ; 5. Amos, b. May 27, 1815 ; 6. Susannah A., b. June 22, 1821 ; 7. Charles G., b. Dec. 20, 1824, d. 1828 ; 8. Charles Henry, b. June 4, 1830.

## LORD.

Bemsley Lord m. Sarah Stimpson. Children :

1. Eunice, b. March 3, 1786, d. in 1868 ; 2. Sally, b. July 17, 1789 ; 3. Bemsley, b. July 16, 1789 ; 4. Luke, b. Nov. 18, 1792.

## LITCH.

Thomas Litch, b. in Ireland, came to this country when four years old, m. Jane Kennedy. Children :

1. Samuel ; 2. Betsey ; 3. Samuel.

Samuel Litch, son of Thomas, and Betsey his wife, had children :

1. Samuel, b. in Lunenburg, July 9, 1779 ; 2. Betsey, b. in Lunenburg, March 10, 1781 ; 3. Thomas, b. July 1, 1785. The first Samuel was the Shays man.

The body of Thomas, Sen., was kept three weeks after death because the depth of snow stopped all travel. This was in Feb. 1802.

## LOVEJOY.

Oliver Lovejoy m. Nancy Ingalls. Children :

1. Mary Ann ; 2. Sarah ; 3. Gratia ; 4. Nancy ; 5. Julia Ann ; 6. Oliver S., a physician in Haverhill.

## MANSFIELD.

James Mansfield and Lois his wife had :

1. Lydia, b. June 11, 1766 ; 2. James, b. Nov. 20, 1767 ; 3. Amasa, b. August, 1769 ; 4. Lois, b. July 10, 1771 ; 5. Josiah.

## MAY.

Theodore May and Elizabeth his wife had children :

1. Theodore, b. May 4, 1775 ; 2. Betsey, b. Dec. 28, 1785.

Benjamin May and Lucy his wife had children :

1. Benjamin, b. Jan. 8, 1784 ; 2. John, b. Aug. 30, 1785 ; 3. Daniel, b. Nov. 12, 1787 ; 4. Fanny, b. Feb. 27, 1790 ; 5. Thomas, b. July 4, 1792 ; 6. Richardson, b. Oct. 27, 1794 ; 7. Augustus, b. Oct. 4, 1798.

## M'ELWAIN.

James McElwain and Rebekah Whitcomb had children :

1. Sally, b. Apr. 28, 1770, m. Luther Stimpson ; Rebekah, b. March 19, 1772, m. Samuel Prentiss ; 3. James, b. Nov. 27, 1777 ; 4. David, b. Jan. 20, 1780 ; 5. William, b. May 15, 1782 ; 6. John, b. Sept. 5, 1785.

He d. Nov. 24, 1820, an aged man. His wife d. Nov. 3, 1811, aged 67.

## MERRIAM.

Capt. Amos Merriam and Elizabeth his wife had children :

1. Amos, b. June 2, 1768 ; 2. Jonathan, b. Oct. 4, 1770 ; 3. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 2, 1772 ; 4. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 11, 1776 ; 5. Luther, b. June 4, 1779. His wife Suscy had : 6. Sukey, b. Feb. 13, 1790.

## MOFFAT.

William Moffat and Mary his wife had children :

1. William, b. Sept. 7, 1767 ; 2. David, b. Feb. 27, 1771 ; 3. James, b. May 7, 1773 ; 4. Joseph, b. March 27, 1775.

## MOOR.

Dea. Levi Moor and Parna his wife had children :

1. Tabitha, b. Aug. 3, 1781 ; 2. Levi, b. July 14, 1787, died soon ; 3. Levi, b. Feb. 8, 1790.

## MORSE.

Isaac Morse and Miriam Spofford had children :

1. Eliza M. b. Jan. 9, 1802 ; 2. Sophia A., b. Jan. 1, 1805 ; 3. Milton S., b. Nov. 12, 1806 ; 4. Rhoanna, b. Sept. 4, 1808 ; 5 and 6. Edward and Edmund, twins, b. Aug. 5, 1810 ; 7. Miriam C., b. Oct. 1, 1812 ; 8. A dau. b. Sept. 14, 1814 ; 9. Susan L., b. Sept. 2, 1816 ; 10. Mary B. b. Jan. 10, 1819. Mrs. M. d. Aug. 21, 1819. By his wife Frances he had : 11. Charles H., b. Jan. 31, 1822 ; 12. Frances A., b. Aug. 23, 1824 ; 13. A dau. b. Jan. 11, 1827 ; 14. Laura S., b. Jan. 26, 1828 ; 15. Laura A., b. May 2, 1829.





MR. JAMES MURDOCK



## MURDOCK.

James Murdock, grandson of Robert of Roxbury, was born in Newton, March 15, 1738. He m., Oct. 9, 1765, Deborah Williams, (gr. gr. granddaughter of Robert Williams of Roxbury, "the common ancestor of very many distinguished men who have honored their country,") and moved to W. in 1766. He d. Oct. 26, 1813; wife d. Aug. 15, 1809. Children:

1. James, b. Aug. 24, 1766; 2. Deborah, b. Oct. 4, 1768; 3. Patty, b. June 11, 1770; 4. Ephraim, b. Jan. 26, 1772; 5. Hannah; 6. Dorcas; 7. Abel.

James, son of James, m. Polly Chaplin, Dec. 2, 1792. Children:

1. Chloe Thursting, b. Sept. 7, 1793; m. James Wilson, Feb. 25, 1819; 2. Shebpinith Reed, b. June 10, 1795, d. March, 1801; 3. Edward Newton, b. Apr. 22, 1797; m. Philinda Walker; 4. Tabitha Moore, b. Feb., 1800, m. Aaron L. Phelps; 5. James, b. June 29, 1802; m. Silence Nutting; 6. Daphne Pratt, b. March 25, 1806, m. Paul Pierce; d. Sept. 22, 1852; 7. Mary Hovey, b. May 21, 1809, d. Aug. 11, 1811; 8. John Hovey, b. Dec. 16, 1811, d. March 14, 1812; 9. Mary Parker, b. March 15, 1816, m. Asa P. Rand, Oct. 23, 1838.

James Murdock died Sept. 25, 1859; his wife, April 9, 1849.

Deborah, m., in 1790, Jewett Boynton Darling. Children:

1. Ruth, b. Apr. 2, 1791, m. James King, July 25, 1808; 2. Nancy, b. Feb. 1, 1794; m. B. Darling, Feb. 19, 1822.

Patty, married a Mr. Deeth.

Ephraim, m. Zibiah Bixby, Feb. 4, 1798. He d. Feb. 21, 1853; first wife d. July 20, 1824; second wife now lives in Wabasha, Minn. Children:

1. Lucy, b. Dec. 16, 1798, m. Mark Whitcomb, March 13, 1821; 2. Ephraim, b. Aug. 17, 1800, m. Sophia Morse, Nov. 24, 1825; 3. Elisha, b. Aug. 27, 1802, m. Rhoanna Morse, Nov. 29, 1832; 4. William, b. Oct. 9, 1804, m. Mary G. Whitney, July 8, 1841; 5. George, b. Nov. 2, 1806, d. Dec. 24, 1838; 6. Charles, b. Apr. 24, 1809, m. Fidelia Prouty, May 21, 1837, moved to Baltimore, and died there, Oct. 12, 1863; 7. Mary, b. Oct. 3, 1811, m. Amasa Whitney, July 24, 1834. The above are the children of the first wife. He married widow Abigail W. Woodbury, dau. of Capt. Jacob Wales, March 30, 1826, and had children; 8. Emily, b. March 19, 1827, m. Albert O. Tyler, Nov. 2, 1845, and resides in Cincinnati; 9. Joseph, b. Feb. 23, 1829, m. Louisa King, Nov. 15, 1853, and Mary Baldwin, Dec. 24, 1857, d. in 1858, July 12, much lamented; 10. Nelson, b. Sept. 23, 1831, m. Cynthia Baldwin, Sept. 18, 1855, and is a lawyer in Wabasha, Minn.

Hannah, m. Jewett Boynton Darling, Dec. 12, 1809. Children:

1. Sally C., m., in 1835, to Ebenezer H. Converse; 2. Hannah, m. in 1833, to John D. Stearns; 3. Mary.

## NOURSE.

Dea. Nourse, of the New Boston Baptist Church, had a family, but the record has eluded search.

## NOTES.

Isaac Noyes and his wife Sally had these children :

1. Levi, b. Apr. 8, 1792 ; 2. b. Aug. 21, 1793 ; 3. Isaac, b. Feb 24, 1796 ; 4. Henry, b. Oct. 9, 1797 ; 5. Jane, b. Sept, 17, 1799.

Samuel Noyes had children :

1. Susanna, b. Feb. 27, 1771 ; 2. Sarah, b. Sept. 7, 1774 ; 3. Samuel, b. June 26, 1778 ; 4. Nancy, b. Sept. 7, 1783. Elizabeth was mother of the first child ; Hannah, his wife, of the remainder.

James Noyes and Elizabeth his wife had children :

1. James, b. Nov. 17, 1771 ; 2. Ward, b. April 21, 1774.

## NUTTING.

Benjamin and Silence Nutting had children :

1. Silence J., b. Sept. 29, 1797 ; 2. Lucy W. b. March 8, 1800 ; 3. Betsey G., b. Sept. 19, 1802 ; 4. David G., b. March 29, 1805 ; 5. Jonas G., b. Apr. 25, 1807 ; 6. Anna H., b. Oct. 4, 1809 ; 7. Anna T., b. May 25, 1813 ; 8. Susanna T., b. July 5, 1819.

## OAK.

Seth Oak and Elizabeth his wife had children :

1. Salloma, b. May 25, 1764 ; 2. John, b. July 31, 1766 ; 3. Thomas, b. July 6, 1768 ; 4. Ebenezer, b. Jan. 12, 1771.

William Oak and Releaf his wife had children :

1. Joel, b. Sept. 1, 1767 ; 2. Abraham, b. Aug. 15, 1770 ; 3. Ephraim, b. March 9, 1773.

## PARKS.

Eleazar, Samuel and William Parks were brothers. Eleazar m. Elizabeth Whitney, but had no children. The tradition is that he was an excellent man. Samuel moved hence, and was the father of Elisha and Luther Parks of Boston, and of Mrs. Whitman, the mother of the late Calvin R. Whitman and of the late Mrs. Webster Whitney.

William lived on the old place near Frank Priest's. Children :

1. Elizabeth, b. May 8, 1758, d. Sept. 10, 1843 ; 2. Mehitable, b. Aug. 17, 1760, d. March 1, 1853, aged 92 ; 3. Jacob, b. Jan. 31, 1763 ; d. Oct. 22, 1850 ; 4. Lydia, b. June 11, 1765, d. Feb. 2, 1854 ; 5. William, b. Feb. 28, 1768 ; 6. Phinehas, b. July 28, 1770, d. Oct. 28, 1857 ; 7. Elisha, b. June 6, 1773, d. Jan. 27, 1858 ; 8. Eliphalet, b. Feb. 15, 1777, d. Oct. 23, 1855 ; 9. Patty, b. Nov. 11, 1780, d. May 10, 1866 ; 10. Polly, b. Nov. 11, 1780, d. April 23, 1866. The last two were twins, and died within seventeen days of the same time. Not one of the ten lived less than 78 years. The sum of the ages of nine is 782 years, and the average age about 87 years.

Jacob, m. Hannah Chaplin. Children :

1. Polycrates, b. Jan. 10, 1796 ; 2. Thomas Graton, b. Jan. 6, 1798 ; 3. Sophronia, b. Sept. 5, 1799.

Phinehas, m. Betsey Stewart. Their children were :

1. Luke, b. in 1793 ; 2. Phinehas, b. in 1795 ; 3. Elizabeth, b. in 1798 ; 4. Levi, b. in 1803 ; 5. Lucy, b. in 1806.

Eliphalet m. Abigail, dau. of Paul Boynton. Children :

Eliphalet, b. July 24, 1802, m. Rebekah Prentiss.

#### PARMENTER.

John Parmenter and Lydia his wife had :

1. Elizabeth, b. June 22, 1767 ; 2. Lydia, b. Sept. 21, 1769 ; 3. Mary, b. Nov. 15, 1771.

#### PARSONS.

Bartholomew Parsons, or Person, or Pearson, father of Richard, died March 20, 1766.

Richard Parsons m. Keziah ——. Children :

1. Relief, b. Apr. 6, 1769 ; 2. Nabbe, b. Apr. 22, 1771 ; 3. Oliver, b. May 15, 1773 ; 4. Hitty, b. June 5, 1775 ; 5. Sarah, b. May 14, 1777.

Oliver Parsons m. Lois Priest. Children :

1. Louisa D., b. Apr. 7, 1802 ; 2. Mary B., b. June 30, 1803 ; 3. Oliver S., b. April 11, 1805 ; 4. Mary B., b. Nov. 22, 1806.

#### PAYSON.

James Payson m. widow Robbins. He d. Aug. 21, 1811, aged 81.

Eliot Payson m. Ruth Hale, and had children :

1. Lucy H., b. Oct. 4, 1799 ; 2. Mary C., b. Sept. 13, 1801 ; 3. James P., b. Sept. 7, 1802 ; 4. Mary C., b. Oct. 16, 1804 ; 5. Edward L., b. Oct. 3, 1806 ; 6. Eliot, b. Aug. 12, 1808 ; 7. Clarissa, b. Aug. 17, 1810 ; 8. Eliza Ann, b. Oct. 24, 1814 ; 9. Evelina L., b. Apr. 6, 1818, at Lebanon, Madison Co., N. Y., whither the family had moved. Eliot became a minister in the Presbyterian Church.

#### PERLEY.

Lieut. Dudley Perley, or Parley, came from Boxford. He m. Hannah Hale of B., Dec. 3, 1767. He d. Dec. 16, 1810, aged 72. She d. Aug. 1806, aged 63. Children :

1. John, b. Oct. 2, 1768, m. Mary Spaulding ; 2. Dudley, b. Aug. 26, 1770 ; 3. Asa, b. July 9, 1772, m. Mary Hunt, of Westminster, Jan., 1803 ; d. March 10, 1847 ; 4. Betsey, b. Feb. 22, 1776, m. Ezra Hyde, the historian. She d. June 2, 1812 ; 5. Hannah, b. Dec. 8, 1777 ; 6. Mehitable, b. Aug. 17, 1779, m. Jeremiah Spaulding, Aug. 1799 ; 7. Thomas, b. June 1, 1783, d. Jan. 22, 1803 ; 8. Henry, b. July 2, 1785.

Asa, son of Dudley, lived a few rods northeast of the Gill place. Among his children was Henry, school teacher and committee man ; now a farmer in Illinois, Prairie City. He m. Emeline Smith, Oct. 25, 1854.

#### PILLSBURY OR PILSBERRY.

Rev. Levi Pillsbury and Sarah Pickard, his wife had children :

1. Eliza, b. Sept. 25, 1802 ; 2. Sally D., b. May 1, 1804 ; 3. John C.,

b. Feb. 27, 1806 ; 4. Dolly W., b. Apr. 4, 1807 ; 5. Joshua P., b. July 12, 1809 ; 6. John M., b. Dec. 3, 1812 ; 7. Mary, b. March 13, 1815 ; 8. Levi, b. Apr. 2, 1817 ; 9. Abigail, b. July 3, 1819.

## POLAND.

William Poland, b. in Hamilton, Apr. 6, 1757, moved to W. in 1788, d. in 1843 ; m. Betsey Brown of Ipswich, b. June 6, 1763, d. in 1849. Children born in Hamilton :

1. Betsey, b. Jan. 18, 1782, d. July 16, 1803 ; 2. Wm. Jr., b. Dec. 12, 1784, m. Eunice Crane of Fitzwilliam, d. June 19, 1859 ; 3. Nancy, a twin, m. Barzillai Martin, d. Sept. 12, 1859 ; 4. David, b. Sept. 12, 1786, m. Lucy Marble of Orange, d. March 15, 1846. Those born in Winchendon are : 5. Susan, b. Nov. 2, 1788, m. John Crane ; 6. Samuel, b. Nov. 29, 1790, m. Thankful Smith and widow Simonds ; 7. Sally, a twin, m. Smyrna Greateon, d. 1868 ; 8. Lucy, b. Oct. 29, 1792, m. Smyrna Greateon, d. 1846 ; 9. Polly, b. May 9, 1795, m. David Smith ; 10. Olive, b. Feb. 25, 1797, m. Phinehas Ball ; 11. Simeon B., b. June 1, 1802, m. Betsey Wheeler.

## POLLARD.

Francis Pollard and Eleanor his wife had children :

1. Francis, b. July 20, 1775 ; 2. Rufus, b. May 6, 1782.

Jonathan Pollard.

Levi Pollard and Rhoda his wife had eleven children : one of them is the Rev. Andrew Pollard, D. D., of Taunton.

## POOR.

Lt. David Poor, Sen., m. Jane Martin.

Daniel Poor m. Polly Martin. Children :

1. Joseph, b. Dec. 15, 1799 ; 2. Mary, b. Feb. 1, 1801 ; 3. Daniel, b. Nov. 13, 1803 ; 4. Phebe, b. Jan. 16, 1806 ; 5. Patience, b. Apr. 24, 1807 ; 6. Hosea, b. June 4, 1809 ; 7. Ira, b. Nov. 21, 1811 ; 8. Sally, b. Sept. 10, 1815.

## PORTER.

John Porter and Jane his wife had children :

1. Jane, b. July 12, 1773 ; 2. John, b. May 12, 1778.

## PRENTISS.

Dea. Samuel Prentiss, Sen., m. Beulah Osgood. Children :

1. John ; 2. Samuel ; 3. Levi ; 4. Luke ; 5. Thomas ; 6. Prudence, m. Laban Burr.

Samuel, son of Samuel, m. Rebekah, dau. of James McElwain. He was b. July 9, 1764, d. 1828 ; she was b. March 19, 1772, d. 1857. Children :

1. Anna, b. Dec. 15, 1794, m. Jonas Brooks ; 2. Samuel, b. Oct. 20, 1796, m. Clara Whiting ; 3. John, b. Dec. 4, 1798 ; 4. Prudence, b. Aug. 21, 1800, d. 1855 ; 5. James, b. Feb. 28, 1803, d. 1856 ; 6. Levi, b.

Feb. 11, 1805; 7. Rebekah, b. May 27, 1807, m. Eliphalet Parks; 8. Mary, b. Feb. 12, 1810, d. 1832; 9. William, b. Aug. 9, 1812, d. 1863; 10. Henry, b. Apr. 20, 1815, d. same year.

Luke, son of Samuel, m. Susanna Wilder. Children:

1. Emma, b. Aug. 12, 1797; 2. Horace, b. June 26, 1799; 3. Gilman, b. Feb. 13, 1801; 4. Harriet, b. Feb. 9, 1803; 5. Maryanna, b. Feb. 1, 1807; 6. Lucy Sylvester, b. March 1, 1809.

#### PRIEST.

Joshua Priest, frozen to death.

Joseph Priest and Patience Wilder his wife had:

Levi, b. Oct. 16, 1785, m. Hannah Woodbury. and had several children; among them is:

Mr. Frank Priest, father of Miss N. A. W. Priest, author of "Over the River."

Samuel Priest and Susanna his wife had children:

1. Henry, b. Feb. 5, 1783; 2. Samuel, b. Feb. 18, 1785.

#### PROUTY OR PROUGHTY.

Isaac Prouty and Molly his wife had children:

1. Isaac, b. Jan. 2, 1780; 2. Molly; 3. Asenah; 4. Hannah; 5. Sarah; 6. Charlotte; 7. John W; the latter b. June 23, 1793.

#### PUSHEY.

Gabriel Pushey, of Acadia, had children:

1. Nathan Pushey, first male child in town; 2. Ruth, m. Dea. Richard Day. Probably others. Mr. Pushey lived near the spot where Dea. Cuter's house stands. \*Mrs. P. was struck by lightning, but not killed.

#### RAYMOND.

Paul Raymond, son of Paul and Tabitha, b. at Salem, May 12, O. S., 1732; Moved to Holden, and thence to W. Died in 1817, aged 87. He m. Abigail Jones, dau. of James and Abigail, b. at Westown, April 6, O. S., 1734, d. 1809, aged 75. They were married in Nov. 1755. Children:

1. Eunice, b. Jan. 12, 1757, d. Sept. 29, 1759; 2. Paul, b. Aug. 13, 1759, d. July 12, 1832, aged 72; 3. James, b. Dec. 9, 1761; 4. Joel, b. Dec. 9, 1764; 5. Abigail, b. Feb. 24, 1767, m. George Coffin; 6. Jesse, b. May 4, 1769; 7. Silas, b. Oct. 15, 1771; 8. Liberty, b. July 7, 1774; 9. Anna, b. Nov. 7, 1776. All born in Holden.

Paul, son of Paul, m. Sarah Gale, b. in Holden, July 29, 1759. She died in W., January 1, 1822, aged 63. Children:

1. Tyler, b. in Holden, May 28, 1781; 2. Paul, in Winchendon, Nov. 2, 1782, m. Abigail Brown. He was deacon of the first Ch. and d. in 1867; 3. John, b. Dec. 16, 1784; 4. Abigail, b. Dec. 22, 1786, d. in 1796; 5. Sally, b. June 28, 1789; 6. Lyman, b. March 15, 1791, m. Zeruah Adams; 7. Nancy, b. June 20, 1793, d. in 1801; 8. Asenath, b. Dec. 3, 1795; 9. Sumner, b. April 5, 1799; 10. George, b. June 16, 1801; 11. Harriet, b. Nov. 1, 1803.

James, son of Col. Paul, m. widow Molly Gale, Jan. 11, 1789. She d. Sept. 19, 1831, and he m. widow Dolly Haven, Dec. 27, 1832. He d. Aug. 18, 1834. The children, all by first wife, were :

1. Levi, b. Aug. 17, 1789, m. Sophia Greenwood, d. in 1868; 2. Polly, b. April 4, 1791, m. Ezra Hyde, d. Oct. 11, 1841; 3. James, b. Oct. 17, 1792; 4. Nathan, b. June 29, 1794; 5. Lucinda, b. Feb. 18, 1796; 6. Clark, b. Nov. 13, 1797; 7. Fidelia, b. January 13, 1800.

Jesse, son of Col. Paul, m. Polly Miller. Children :

1. Daughter, b. Oct. 24, 1792, d. same day; 2. Amey, b. Nov. 6, 1794; 3. Charles, b. July 23, 1796; 4. Joel, b. June 3, 1798; 5. Lincoln, b. Feb. 17, 1800; 6. James, b. Sept. 24, 1801; 7. Lucy, b. Apr. 25, 1803; 8. b. April 16, 1805; 9. Nahum Jones, b. Aug. 11, 1808.

#### REED.

Lincoln Reed and Betsey his wife had children :

1. Mary Ann; 2. Nathan; 3. Betsey; 4. Harriet; 5. John; 6. Martha; 7. John; 8. Nelson; 9. Sarah Jane.

#### RICE.

Capt. David Rice and Sarah his wife had the following children :

1. Nathaniel, b. Aug. 25, 1778; 2. Martha, b. March 30, 1780, d. Nov. 8, 1792; 3. David, b. Jan. 8, 1782; 4. Sarah, b. Apr. 18, 1784; 5. Rufus, b. June 1, 1786; 6. Achsah, b. March 23, 1788. His second wife was Eunice Hosmer. Their children were: 7. Persis, b. Oct. 8, 1791; 8. Asa, b. March 31, 1793; 9. Josiah, b. Oct. 4, 1794, d. Apr. 9, 1795; 10. Jedidiah, b. June 2, 1796; 11. Tabitha, b. Apr. 8, 1800.

Lieut. Benjamin Rice came to town in 1772, and settled where his son Luke now lives, the next year. His wife was Ruth Budge. Children :

1. Amos, b. Feb. 12, 1778; 2. Betsey, b. April 1, 1783; 3. Katharine, b. May 30, 1786; 4. Eunice, b. Aug. 11, 1789; 5. Luke, b. May 18, 1793.

#### RICHARDSON.

Ebenezer Richardson m. Sarah Richardson.

Ebenezer, Jr.

#### ROBBINS.

William Robbins, Sen., m. Nancy Leland. Children :

1. William; 2. Joseph.

William Robbins m. Eunice Ware. Children :

Nahum, David, and sisters.

Joseph Robbins and Sarah his wife had children :

1. Alonzo W., b. Nov. 15, 1805; 2. Abigail E., b. Mar. 23, 1808; 3. Joseph A., b. Oct. 10, 1809; 4. Joseph, b. May 22, 1811; 5 and 6. Susan and Sarah, b. May 1, 1813; 7. Hervey; 8. Frances.

#### ROBERTS.

David Roberts m. a sister of Col. Woodbury. Children :

1. Betsey, b. June 4, 1798 ; 2. David, b. Aug. 13, 1800 ; 3. Isaac W., b. April 21, 1803.

## ROSS.

Phinehas Ross and Betsey his wife had children :

1. \* Esther, b. Aug. 13, 1816 ; 2. Phinehas M. ; 3. Almeda ; 4. Robinson ; 5. Betsey ; 6. William, and 7. Alexander Hastings, b. Apr. 28, 1831, Cong'l minister at Springfield, Ohio.

## RUSSELL.

Samuel Russell and Martha (b. at Littleton, Apr. 6, 1764,) his wife had children :

1. Peter, b. at Littleton, Aug. 7, 1786 ; 2. Stephen, b. at Littleton, Jan. 15, 1769 ; 3. Lydia, b. July 16, 1771 ; 4. Rebecca, b. Aug. 5, 1773 ; 5. Betty, b. June 15, 1775 ; 6. John, b. Aug. 29, 1778.

## SARGENT.

Samuel Sargent, Sen., m. Mary Vryling. Children :

1. Mary, b. July 16, 1790 ; 2. Elizabeth, b. May 16, 1792 ; 3. Lydia, b. Feb. 11, 1794 ; 4. Noah, b. Oct. 28, 1795 ; 5. Aaron, b. Oct. 24, 1797, d. Oct. 24, 1797 ; 6. Aaron, b. Nov. 26, 1799.

## SCOTT.

Jacob Scott m. Polly Maynard. They came from Harvard. Children :

1. Abigail ; 2. Israel ; 3. Daniel, died young ; 4. Daniel M. ; 5. Elijah S. ; 6. Jacob ; 7 and 8. Abram and Mary ; 9. John M. ; 10. Ruth ; 11. William.

## SHERWIN.

Ebenezer Sherwin m. Lucy Curtiss. Children :

1. Ebenezer, b. Dec. 11, 1775 ; 2. Susanna, b. Oct. 11, 1778 ; 3. Eliel, b. Apr. 21, 1780 ; 4. Lucy, b. Nov. 1, 1781 ; 5. Patty, b. May 5, 1783 ; 6. Nancy, b. June 5, 1785 ; 7. Alvina, b. March 8, 1787 ; 8. Robert, b. Dec. 23, 1790 ; 9. Arba, b. Nov. 7, 1791 ; 10. Ivory, b. Sept. 18, 1793 ; 11. Samuel, b. Apr. 26, 1796 ; 12. Sarah, b. Nov. 3, 1797 ; 13. Hiram, b. July 4, 1800.

Ebenezer Sherwin, son of Ebenezer, and Sarah his wife had children :

1. Francis, b. July 9, 1770 ; 2. Azarias, b. May 2, 1773.

Eliel Sherwin, son of Ebenezer, Sen., and Dolly his wife had children :

1. Dolly B., b. March 12, 1804 ; 2. Alathine, b. Jan. 12, 1806 ; 3. Lucy, b. May 5, 1807 ; 4. Joanna, b. June 11, 1809 ; 5. John Melancthon Wells, b. Jan. 26, 1811 ; 6. Elvira, b. Feb. 19, 1813 ; 7. Eliel, b. Nov. 3, 1814 ; 8. Harriet, b. Feb. 27, 1817 ; 9. Maria, b. March 20, 1819 ; 10. Jonas B., b. Jan. 30, 1821 ; 11 and 12. John Chrysostom Wolfgang Theophilus, and Mozart, b. July 21, 1822 ; 13. Elvira, b. Nov. 20, 1825 ; 14. Dolly, b. Feb. 18, 1828 ; 15. Lyman Harrington, b. Oct. 29, 1829.

Ahimaaz Sherwin and Ruth his wife had children :

1. Ruth, b. July 9, 1770 ; 2. Asa, b. Dec. 27, 1782 ; 3. Ruth, b. Oct. 11, 1785.

## SIMONDS.

Elder Samuel Simonds and Sally his wife had children :

1. James L. ; 2. George W. ; 3. Albert G. ; 4. Lucius Bolles ; 5. James M. ; 6. Frederick A.

## SMITH.

John Smith and Sarah his wife had children :

1. Sally, b. Sept. 7, 1782 ; 2. Esther, b. March 25, 1787.

Ebenezer and Anna Smith had children :

1. Joel ; 2. Ezra ; 3. Enos, all born between 1773 and 1781.

Reuben Smith and ——— Burnam his wife, had :

Abraham, b. Dec. 30, 1765.

Ely Smith and Elenor his wife had children :

1. Elenor, b. Oct. 20, 1769 ; 2. Ely, b. May 15, 1771 ; 3. Ruth, b. Apr. 22, 1773 ; 4. Lucy, b. Nov. 27, 1774 ; 5. Jonas, b. Apr. 20, 1776 ; 6. Lydia, b. July, 1777 ; 7. An infant that died soon ; 8. Abijah, b. July 20, 1784.

Jonathan Smith and Mary his wife had children :

1. David, b. Sept. 5, 1779 ; 2. Jonathan, b. Aug. 23, 1781 ; 3. John, b. Aug. 24, 1786 ; 4. Nabbe, b. July 10, 1788 ; 5. Polly, b. Apr. 9, 1790 ; 6. George, b. Dec. 30, 1791.

Dea. Joshua Smith and Eunice his wife had children :

1. Lucy, b. Feb. 1, 1811 ; 2. Joshua, b. Aug. 8, 1814 ; 3. Eunice, b. Jan. 7, 1818 ; 4. Reuben T., b. July 6, 1825 ; 5. Melzar D., b. Oct. 27, 1827 ; 6. Moses (*not* David,) lost a hand in the battle of Princeton. He is referred to on p. 105.

## STEARNS.

Bartholomew Stearns, b. Aug. 15, 1740, m. Mary Raymond, b. May 10, 1745, in March, 1768.

His son Amos, m. Deborah Hunt, Dec. 31, 1803. Children :

1. Levi, b. Aug. 15, 1804 ; 2. Mary, b. June 14, 1806 ; 3. Dolly H., b. May 2, 1808 ; 4. Bartholomew F., b. March 5, 1811 ; 5. William, b. June 15, 1812 ; 6. Amos E., b. Jan. 15, 1814 ; 7. Eli, b. May 16, 1815. Wife died Feb. 7, 1817. He m. widow Sarah Maynard, born Miller, Dec. 25, 1817. Children : 8. Miriam E., b. Oct. 13, 1818 ; 9. Isaac M., b. June 4, 1821 ; 10. Deborah H., b. June 5, 1823 ; 11. Nancy M., b. Dec. 5, 1825 ; 12. Harriet M., b. Nov. 2, 1829 ; 13. Lavina H., b. Nov. 14, 1835.

Simeon Stearns and Lydia his wife had children :

1. Simeon A. ; 2. Daniel Bailey, b. Apr. 10, 1818 ; 3. Mary E., 4. Lucy ; 5. Benjamin F. ; 6. Lydia.



## STEEL.

Samuel Steel and Rachel his wife had children :

1. William, b. April 20, 1777 ; 2. James, b. May 11, 1779 ; 3. Sally, b. Feb. 25, 1781 ; 4. Samuel, b. July 14, 1785 ; 5. Rachel, b. March 4, 1788 ; 6. Nabbe, b. Aug. 17, 1790.

James Steel and Susanna his wife had children :

1. Susanna ; 2. Elizabeth, b. March 3, 1789 ; 3. Levi, b. Oct. 29, 1791.

## STIMPSON.

Rev. Daniel Stimpson m. his cousin, Beulah Stimpson. Children :

1. Luther ; 2. Sarah or Sally ; 3 and 4. Twin sons, b. March 22, 1763. Both died within a day. His wife died in 1767, and himself in 1768.

Luther m. Sally McElwain. Children :

1. Daniel, b. June 9, 1789 ; 2. James, b. June 12, 1791 ; 3. Luther, b. Aug. 19, 1794 ; 4. Levi, b. July 15, 1796 ; 5. Sally, b. Nov. 24, 1798.

Sarah m. Bemsley Lord and had four children. One was :

Eunice, who died the present year.

Jonathan Stimpson and Esther his wife had children :

Jonathan, b. Aug. 8, 1762 ; 2. Joel, b. Nov. 16, 1763. Both born in Weston. The following in Winchendon : 3. John, b. Jan. 30, 1766 ; 4. Jonathan, b. March 5, 1768 ; 5. Ephraim, b. Jan. 15, 1770 ; 6. Esther, b. Sept. 9, 1771 ; 7. Daniel, b. March, 2, 1773. The Stimpsons were so numerous that outsiders sometimes called Winchendon by the name of "Stimpson Town."

## STODDARD.

David Stoddard m. Sybil Leavitt. Children :

David, b. in 1743, m. Lydia Brown ; found dead in his bed, July 18, 1818.

Joshua Stoddard, b. Jan. 16, 1778, m. Lois Balcom, b. June 6, 1775. Children :

Seven who died young ; four of them in the terrible sickness of 1810. 8. James M., b. March 30, 1816 ; 9. Pamela, b. Aug. 28, 1819.

## STONE.

Samuel Stone and Martha his wife had children :

1. Eunice, b. March 17, 1778 ; 2. Samuel, b. June 30, 1779 ; 3. Joseph, b. June 8, 1781 ; 4. Josiah, b. Apr. 22, 1783.

## STUART.

Jeremiah Stuart and Hannah his wife had children :

1. Paul, b. June 8, 1762 ; 2. Jeremiah, b. July 6, 1767 ; 3. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 22, 1769 ; 4. Hannah, b. Nov. 4, 1774 ; 5. John, b. Jan. 21, 1778 ; 6. Richard, b. March 25, 1780.

Paul Stewart m. Hannah Robbins and had children :

1. Enoch, b. May 17, 1791 ; 2. Keziah, b. July 2, 1794 ; 3. Joseph B., b. Nov. 19, 1797.

## SWEETLAND.

Thomas and Abigail Sweetland had children :

1. Benjamin, b. July 30, 1763 ; 2. Betty, b. Nov. 7, 1765.

## SWEETZER.

Philips Sweetzer and Persis his wife had children :

1. Esther, b. Sept. 20, 1786.

## SYLVESTER.

Nathaniel Sylvester and Lucy Clapp his wife had :

- Lucy, b. in 1783 ; Evelina, b. March 7, 1800.

## TAYLOR.

Isaac Taylor, b. in Stow, Jan. 25, 1765, d. Dec. 25, 1848 ; m. Betsey Whitney of Watertown, b. March 7, 1769, d. June 18, 1844. Children :

1. Edward L., b. May 20, 1790 ; 2. Isaac, Jr., b. Oct. 19, 1794, d. Feb. 3, 1837 ; 3. Lois, b. Aug. 19, 1796 ; 4. Betsey, b. May 5, 1798 ; 5. Abel, b. Apr. 3, 1800, d. in 1820 ; 6. Cynthia, b. Feb. 17, 1802 ; 7. Nancy, b. Apr. 15, 1804, d. in infancy ; 8 and 9. Abraham and Jacob, b. July 15, 1805 ; Jacob d. Jan. 11, 1864 ; 10. William, b. May 2, 1808 ; 11. Addison, b. July 17, 1810, d. March 4, 1837, in Columbus, Texas ; 12. Nelson, b. June 16, 1813.

## TITUS.

Samuel and Anna Titus had children :

1. John, b. Aug. 1, 1761 ; 2. Eleazar, b. Apr. 5, 1763 ; 3. Samuel, b. March 2, 1765.

## TOLMAN.

Dea. Desire Tolman, b. in Dorchester, m. Elizabeth Howe, resided on the Col. Berry place. Children :

1. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 7, 1789 ; 2. John, b. July 12, 1791 ; 3. James, b. Dec. 24, 1793 ; 4. Sally, b. Apr. 2, 1793, d. Apr. 22, 1793 ; 5. Joseph, b. March 7, 1796, d. July 13, 1796 ; 6. Samuel H. ; 7. William ; 8. Stephen ; 9. Charles.

William, son of Desire, m. Mercy Brown. Children :

1. Eliza, b. Apr. 12, 1804 ; 2. William M., b. May 3, 1806 ; 3. Harriet, b. July 6, 1808 ; 4. Stephen, b. July 16, 1811.

## TOWNE.

Absalom Towne m. Judith Hale. Children :

1. Judith, b. Aug. 7, 1768 ; 2. Phinehas, b. Sept. 11, 1770 ; 3. David, b. Oct. 13, 1772 ; 4. Abel, b. May 13, 1775 ; 5. Amos, b. June 4, 1777 ; 6. Hitty, b. Oct. 29, 1779 ; 7. Asa, b. Apr. 25, 1782 ; 8 and 9. Silas and Sally, b. Jan. 21, 1786 ; 10. Betsey, b. Sept. 1, 1788 ; 11. Levina, b. Sept. 9, 1792. The family moved to Central N. Y.

## TUCKER.

Seth Tucker, b. Jan. 18, 1760, d. in 1865, aged 98 ; m. on the 31st of Nov. 1791, to Jane Payson, b. March 11, 1761, d. 1813, aged 42. Children :

1. Nathaniel ; 2. Elliot P. ; 3. Same name ; 4. Betsey P. ; 5. Joshua ;
6. Jane ; 7. Seth ; 8. Elisha ; 9. Same name ; 10. Samuel ; 11. Same name ;
12. Susanna.

Elisha Tucker, br. of Seth, m. Sarah Preston. Children :

1. Mary S., b. Oct. 17, 1793 ; 2. Sarah P., b. July 17, 1795 ; 3. Elisha, b. July 24, 1797 ; 4. Joanna How, b. June 24, 1799 ; 5. Abigail E., b. Apr. 23, 1803.

## TUTTLE.

Jedidiah Tuttle m. Lucy Smith. Children :

1. James, b. Aug. 10, 1780 ; 2. David, b. Dec. 3, 1782 ; 3. Jedidiah, b. April 18, 1785 ; 4. Frances, b. March 9, 1788 ; 5. Clarissa, b. Nov. 2, 1790 ; 6. Electus, b. Feb. 8, 1793 ; 7. Silas, b. Nov. 8, 1795 ; 8. Eli, b. July 5, 1797 ; 9. Ainsworth, b. Jan. 1, 1799 ; 10. Sarah S., b. Jan. 5, 1802.

Simon Tuttle, Sen., m. Phebe ——. Children :

Simon, b. Jan. 15, 1791 ; Phebe ; John ; Lucy ; John ; Jewett ; Joseph ; Daniel ; Mary ; Stillman ; Phebe ; and 12. Anna, b. Nov. 12, 1811.

## VOSE.

Reuben Vose, Sen., had :

Reuben, Jr., who m. Hannah ——. Children :

1. Abigail, b. Apr. 24, 1807 ; 2. Charles ; 3. Mary Ann ; 4. Son, d. early ; 5. Jerusha ; 6. Reuben, b. Dec. 24, 1824.

## WALES.

Capt. Jacob Wales m. Phebe Howard. Children :

1. Jacob ; 2. Abigail, m. Levi Woodbury and Ephraim Murdock.

## WALKER.

Samuel Walker m. Betsey Wyman. Children :

1. Betsey, b. Aug. 22, 1796 ; 2. Joanna ; 3. Demas ; 4. Samuel ; 5. Patty ; 6. Sally ; 7. Lovell ; 8. Leonard ; 9. Seth, b. June 1, 1824.

## WHITCOMB.

Israel Whitcomb m. Eunice Wilson. Children :

1. Rufus, b. May 8, 1784 ; 2. Caty, b. Nov. 4, 1786, d. Sept. 19, 1789 ; 3. Caty, b. July 21, 1790 ; 4. Mark, b. Nov. 10, 1792, m. Lucy Murdock.

## WHITNEY.

Silas Whitney was in W. as early as 1764. In that year he was chosen church warden, and surveyor of boards and shingles. He kept the tavern at the Centre for a time.

Jacob Whitney lived during several years in a house northeast of the John Crosby place ; perhaps half way down towards the Monomonauk ; and three-quarters of a mile north of Spring Village. He afterwards lived on the Hubbard place, where his son Elias, the surveyor, lived and died. Besides Elias, he had a daughter Sarah, b. Oct. 27, 1794, d. July 26, 1797.

William Whitney, not nearly related to the William Whitney whose family follows next below, kept the tavern at the Centre, and afterwards left the place.

William Whitney settled in Winchendon, about 1774. He was the eldest child of William Whitney and his wife, Hannah Harrington, and great-great-grandson of John Whitney, Jr., of Watertown, who came from England "in the ship Elizabeth and Ann, Roger Cooper, Master," in 1635, at the age of eleven years, with his father, mother and four younger brothers. William Whitney was born in Weston, April 10, 1736. He was married, June 14, 1762, to Mary Mansfield of Weston, by Rev. Samuel Woodward. Children :

1. William ; 2. Phinehas ; 3. Mary ; 4. Joseph ; 5. Amasa ; 6. Sally ; 7. Luke. He d. July 10, 1817 ; wife d. Dec. 17, 1815.

William, son of William, born in 1765, m. Ann Heywood of Gardner, January 13, 1791. He moved to Gardner, and died there in 1846 ; his wife died a few days after, and both were buried at the same time. Mr. Washington Whitney, and Mrs. Betsey Weller of this town are his grandchildren.

Phinehas, son of William, Sen., b. April 1, 1766, m. Phebe Stearns, Jan. 17, 1793, and had :

1. Phinehas, b. in 1794, d. July 12, 1804. His wife Phebe died Apr. 7, 1794, aged 20. He married Bethiah Barrett of Barre, Feb. 15, 1796, and had children : 2. Phebe ; 3. Lucy, b. June 4, 1797, m. Rev. Benjamin Rice of South Deerfield ; 4. William Barrett, b. Jan. 14, 1801 ; 5. Mary, b. March 17, 1803, m. Dr. Alvah Godding ; 6 and 7. Phinehas and Nelson, who died young ; 8. Sarah Ann, b. Jan. 30, 1809, m. Josiah Brown and C. W. Bigelow ; 9. Louisa, b. May 30, 1812, m. Rev. Giles H. Lyman. He died May 10, 1831 ; his wife d. Aug. 2, 1849.

Mary, dau. of William, Sen., b. April 10, 1773, m. in 1799, Benjamin Heywood, son of Seth Heywood of Gardner, gr. of Phinehas, and great-gr. of Dea. John Heywood of Concord. Children :

1. Levi ; 2. Benjamin F. ; 3. Walter ; 4. William ; 5. Seth ; 6. Charles.

Joseph, son of William, Sen., b. May 20, 1775, m., in 1799, Hannah, dau. of Dudley Perley. Children :

1. Joseph, b. Oct. 10, 1800, m. Abigail Flint ; 2. Dudley, b. July 12, 1802, m. Mary S. Shore ; 3. Seba, b. Feb. 21, 1805, m. Geo. Cummings ; 4. Thomas, b. March, 1807 ; 5. Hannah, b. Aug. 6, 1809, m. Joseph Adams, and Horace Whitecomb ; 6. Cynthia, b. Jan. 25, 1812 ; 7. William, b. July 29, 1814, m. Mary Glines ; 8. Grover S., b. July 10, 1816, m. Laura Robey ; 9. Betsey E., b. May 21, 1825, m. Almon H. Poland.

Amasa, son of William, Sen., b. June 16, 1777 ; m., Dec., 1802, Mary, dau. of Daniel Goodridge, b. March 20, 1779. He d. Feb. 2, 1852 ; she d. Jan. 11, 1855. Children :

1. Webster, b. Oct. 6, 1803, m., March 16, 1828, Eliza Parks Whitman, who d. March 4, 1867 ; 2. Amasa, b. Apr. 24, 1806, m., July 24, 1834, Mary Murdock ; 3. Harriet, b. Jan. 27, 1811, m. C. C. Pierce, Nov. 13, 1833, d. Nov. 18, 1867 ; 4. Wm. Lowe, b. March 24, 1815, d. July 13, 1832 ; 5. Baxter D., b. June 28, 1817, m. March 1, 1846,

Sarah Jane Whitney; 6. Mary Goodridge, b. Aug. 2, 1819, m. July 8, 1841, Wm. Murdock; 7. John Milton, b. Dec. 18, 1823, d. Sept. 20, 1825.

Sally, dau. of William, Sen., b. Sept. 3, 1779, m. Jan. 12, 1802, Smyrna Bancroft of Gardner. Her children are:

Dea. Smyrna Bancroft, Amasa Bancroft, President of Gardner Bank, and Mrs. Smith.

Luke, son of William, Sen., lived in Gardner.

Hananiah Whitney, Sen., m. Azubah —. Children:

1. Moses, b. Nov. 28, 1789; 2. Hananiah, b. May 29, 1792; 3. Alpheus, b. March 8, 1794; 4. Azubah, b. Aug. 25, 1796; 5. Artemas, b. Sept. 5, 1798; 6. Stacey; 7. Barsina, b. Feb. 4, 1801; 8. Esther, b. Jan. 13, 1803; 9. Silas S., b. June 27, 1805; 10. Levi P., b. Aug. 19, 1807; 11. Samuel A., b. Nov. 10, 1809; 12. Abigail F., b. Dec. 27, 1812.

Hananiah Whitney, Jr., m. Mary Leavitt, dau. of Stowers Beals. Children:

1. George Leavitt. He then m. Sarah Beaman. 2. John M.; 3. Mary; 4. William; 5. Henry M.; 6. Sarah; 7. Elizabeth; 8. Abigail; 9. Harriet; 10. Charles.

Silas Whitney, mentioned above, and his wife Jane had children:

1. Love, b. Dec. 8, 1758; 2. David, b. Aug. 31, 1760; 3. Silas, b. June 12, 1762, (all born in Princeton); 4. Oliver, b. Sept. 16, 1764; 5. Bartholomew, b. June 30, 1766; 6. Jane, b. June 6, 1768; 7. Phebe, b. Feb. 1, 1770.

#### WHITON.

Dr. Israel Whiton b. Sept. 3, 1754, at Ashford, Conn. His father intended that he should be educated at Yale, but he was not, on account of an impediment in his speech. He studied medicine with Dr. Huntington of Westford, Conn., in 1773. Otis m. Dorothy Crosby, dau. of Samuel Crosby, Esq. Children:

1. John M., b. in Winchendon, Aug. 1, 1785; 2. Dorothy, b. Apr. 6, 1788, d. in 1812; 3. Israel, b. May 30, 1791, d. in 1815; 4. Otis C., b. Sept. 27, 1794. He was twice married, but left no children.

John M., son of Israel Whiton, m. Abigail Morris, b. at Litchfield, Conn., Aug. 3, 1783. Children:

1. James Morris, b. Nov. 9, 1809; 2. Elizabeth D., b. March 7, 1811; 3. Helen D., b. July 8, 1814; 4. Abigail, b. May 31, 1817; 5. Mary C., b. Feb. 20, 1819; 6. John Milton, b. March 7, 1821. James M., the eldest son of Rev. Dr. Whiton, was a man of great energy of character, and was a noble pioneer in Christian abolitionism. His son, Rev. James M. Whiton, is pastor of the First Congregational Church in Lynn.

#### WILDER.

Hon. Abel Wilder m. Anna Butler, June 27, 1764: Children:

1. Eunice, b. Apr. 22, 1765, m. Eli Bruce; 2. Maryanna, b. Oct. 13, 1766, m. Mr. Burr; 3. Abel, b. March 15, 1768; 4. Thomas, b. March 1,

1770; 5. Grace, b. Dec. 8, 1771, m. Levi Divoll; 6. Susanna, b. Nov. 17, 1773, m. Luke Prentiss; 7. David b. Oct. 10, 1775, d. May 10, 1785; 8. Martha, b. Jan. 21, 1780, m. Asaph Brown; 9. Betsey, b. Aug. 4, 1782, m. Aaron Knights; 10. David, b. Dec. 5, 1785.

Abel, son of Abel, Sen., m. Eunice Hale. Children:

1. Abel, b. 1792, d. 1865; 2. Charles, b. in 1794, d. in 1867; 3. Artemas, b. in 1796, d. in 1866; 4. Moses Hale, b. in 1798; 5. —, b. in 1800, d. in 1864; 6. Mary, b. 1805, m. Joseph Johnson, d. 1836; 7. David, b. 1805; 8. Albert, b. in 1809. All these had their birth in W. The family removed to Paris, N. Y., where were born: 9. Milton, b. in 1812; 10. Lucy, b. in 1814; 11. William, b. in 1816.

David Wilder and Elizabeth his wife had:

John, b. Jan. 16, 1784.

Elijah Wilder and Azubah his wife had children:

1. Oshea, b. July 16, 1784.

Capt. Joseph Wilder, (br. of Hon. Abel,) and Anna Barrett his wife had children:

1. Joseph, b. March 17, 1783; 2. Thomas O., b. July 14, 1784; 3. James, b. May 24, 1786; 4. Luke, b. Oct. 15, 1788; 5. Abel, b. March 19, 1793.

#### WITHINGTON.

Edward Withington and Emma his wife had children:

1. Eunice, b. Apr. 14, 1781; 2. Betsey T., b. May 4, 1783; 3. Alpheus M., b. Aug. 13, 1785; 4. Edward, b. Dec. 29, 1787.

#### WOODBURY.

Col. Jacob B. Woodbury, b. in Ipswich, m. Hannah Roberts. He d. in 1839, aged 82; she d. in 1845, aged 85. Children:

1. Jacob, m. Eunice Rice; 2. John, m. Lucy Dutton, and Phebe [Washburn] Whitney; 3. Hannah, m. Levi Priest; 4. David, m. Esther Wales; 5. Levi, m. Abigail Wales; 6. Sally, m. Henry Greenwood; 7. Rowena, m. Reuben Harris; 8. Silas, m. Mary Woodruff and Sarah King; 9. Nehemiah.

#### WYMAN.

Thomas Wyman was the gr. gr. grandson of Francis Wyman, who came from England, though the family is said to be of German origin. Thomas was the son of Eleazar, who m. Martha Richardson, and lived in Woburn. Thomas was b. in Woburn. in 1745, m. Betsey Reed, May 25, 1773; moved to Templeton in 1783, and to Winchendon in 1784. Lived west of the New Boston Meeting House. Children:

1. Thomas, b. 1774; 2. Betsey, b. 1775; 3. Joshua, Apr. 10, 1778; 4. Patty or Martha, b. 1780. The above were b. in Woburn. 5. Jonathan, b. in Templeton, Nov. 7, 1782. The following were b. in Winchendon: 6. Samuel, b. 1784; 7. Silas, b. 1786; 8. Sally, b. Apr. 14, 1788; 9. Polly, b. 1791; 10. Isaac, b. Sept. 29, 1794; 11. Levi, b. 1796.

Thomas, son of Thomas, m. Lydia Bowker. Children :

1. Asa, b. Oct. 2, 1800, d. Nov. 12, 1811 ; 2. Lydia, b. Aug. 10, 1802, d. Sept. 10, 1820 ; 3. Olive, b. March 28, 1804, d. Nov. 10, 1811 ; 4. Franklin, b. June 17, 1806, d. Nov. 7, 1811 ; 5. Stillman, b. May 10, 1808, d. Nov. 15, 1811 ; 6. Harvey, b. Oct. 5, 1810 ; 7. Newell, b. Dec. 13, 1812, d. Sept. 15, 1813 ; 8. Newell, b. Feb. 6, 1814 ; 9. Olive, b. March 10, 1816, d. Oct. 10, 1841.

Betsey, dau. of Thomas, m. Samuel Walker, and Noah Holman. She is now living in this town, aged 93 years.

Joshua, son of Thomas, m. Nancy Noyes. Children :

1. Laura, b. July 28, 1803, d. March 22, 1804 ; 2. Enoch N., b. May 4, 1805, m. Huldah Twitchell and Mary Loveland ; 3. Gilman, b. Feb. 12, 1807, m. Hannah Taft ; 4. Sumner, b. Feb. 22, 1809, m. Sally Lewis, and Philura Pitkin ; 5. Franklin, b. Jan. 26, 1812, d. Jan. 11, 1814 ; 6. Henry W., b. Dec. 26, 1821.

Patty, dau. of Thomas, m. a Mr. Stearns, and d. in New York.

Jonathan, son of Thomas, m. Olive Alger. Children :

1. Nelson, b. Dec. 1, 1812, d. Oct. 6, 1826 ; 2. Vesta, b. May 10, 1815, d. Sept. 26, 1826 ; 3. Almeda, b. Jan. 10, 1818 ; 4. Olive, b. June 24, 1820 ; 5. Nathan A., b. Sept. 7, 1823, d. Jan. 3, 1827 ; 6. Vesta, b. Aug. 13, 1826 ; 7. Adah P., b. Dec. 13, 1828. They were m. Apr. 18, 1812, and have lived in the same house to the present time, fifty-six years. Their golden wedding was celebrated in 1862.

Samuel, son of Thomas, m. Patty Wyman. Children :

1. Isaac ; 2. Levi ; 3. Lewis ; 4. Mary ; 5. Mary Jane ; 6. James.

Silas, son of Thomas, m. a Miss Bowker, and Betsey Bingham.

Sally, dau. of Thomas, m. John Lewis, and lived in Orange.

Polly, dau. of Thomas, m. Joshua Clark.

Isaac, son of Thomas, m. Mercy Poor. Children :

1. Lucy ; 2. Sylva, b. Nov. 2, 1816 ; 3. Sarepta, b. July 9, 1820, d. July 28, 1831 ; 4. Sophronia, b. July 11, 1823, m. Luke Hale.

Levi, son of Thomas, m. Roxy Piper. Children :

1. Orsemas ; 2. Adaline.

The preceding is a full, though not a perfect transcript of the Record of Births. Of some families very little is to be found ; of others, more might be collected by minute examination ; of others still, no notice has been taken, chiefly because their names have long ceased to be familiar here. But it can be said truly, that five-times as much as was intended, has forced itself into this chapter. When a man plunges into a genealogical quagmire, he finds it as difficult to emerge as a swimmer who is entangled and drawn under by sea-weed.

For the sake of showing how the roots of ancient families are inter-

twisted, the following marriages, or intentions of marriage, of a date previous to 1786, are here inserted. Some were married in the place of the bride's residence ; others, here.

" January 4th, 1763. There was married Mr. Thomas Sweetland and Mrs. Abigail Pushee, both of Ipswich Canada, in the County of Worcester, by the Rev. Mr. Daniel Stimson.

Married—Bartholomew Pearson and Lydia Randal, Nov. 3, 1763:

M.\*—Aaron Hodgkins and Eunice Bixby, January 24, 1764.

M.—Henry Poore, of Royalston, and Kezire [Keziah] Foster, September 11, 1764.

Int.—Simeon Burnam and Mary Warson, April 27, 1765.

Int.—Joseph Boynton and Zeruah Wilder, Sept. 30, 1765.

M.—James Mansfield and Lewis Darling, March 4, 1766.

Int.—Isaac Stimson and Elizabeth Bixby, April 12, 1766, and married on the 26th of March, 1767.

Int.—William Moffatt and Mary Priest, June 6, 1766.

Int.—Daniel Goodridge and Hannah Lowe, July 5, 1766.

M.—Levi Bixby and Ruth Darling, Oct. 2, 1766.

Int.—Abner Hale and Abigail Goodridge, Nov. 18, 1766.

Int.—Richard Person and Kezia Bixbe, May 30, 1767, and married July 6, 1767.

Int.—Dudley Perley and Hannah Hall, August 11, 1767.

Int.—Jonathan Bixbe and Esther Gale, Nov. 1, 1767.

[The greater part of the above were married by Mr. Stimson.]

M.—Daniel Gould and Mary Porter, Feb. 15, 1770.

M.—John Joiner, or Joyner, and Jerusha Bixby, July 10, 1770.

M.—John Day and Elizabeth Joslin, Jan'y 10, 1771.

M.—David Goodridge and Silena Joslin, Aug. 20, 1772.

M.—Abijah Stimson and Lois Bixby, Sept. 28, 1772.

M.—Ephraim Sawyer and Peggy Fisher, Dec. 3, 1772.

M.—Job Boynton of Monadnock No. 4, N. H., and Mary Joslin, March 18, 1773.

M.—Samuel Steele and Rachel Putnam, Nov. 4, 1773.

M.—Nathan Green and Lucy Gardner, March 20, 1774.

Int.—John Porter and Jane Stuart, Sept. 28, 1771.

Int.—Stephen Boynton and Tabitha Foster, Dec. 14, 1771.

Int.—Samuel Mason and Sarah Whitney, May 26, 1772.

Int.—Solomon Biglow and Hannah Sanders, June 10, 1772.

Int.—Francis Bridge and Eunice Brown, Dec. 10, 1772.

Int.—Levi Carter and Silence Beeman, Nov. 13, 1773.

M.—Jonathan Evans and Mehtabel Sherwin, July 21, 1771.

M.—Ebenezer Sherwin, Jr. and Lucy Bradish, Dec. 14, 1774.

M.—Elisha Brown and Merrill Bales, Nov. 16, 1775.

M.—Jonathan Smith and Mary Barrett, May 29, 1776.

M.—Philips Rollins and Abigail Porter, April 29, 1777.

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\*M. stands for married; Int. for intentions.



- M.—Samuel Brown and Leavina Bruce, July 14, 1777.
- M.—Ephraim Parmenter and Unity Darling, July 17, 1777.
- M.—Daniel Joslin and Mary Nichols, Oct. 20, 1777.
- M.—John Bemis and Lucy Bates, April 28, 1778.
- M.—James Bates and Elizabeth Nichols, Oct. 12, 1778.
- M.—John Marble and Sarah Curtice, Nov. 5, 1778.
- M.—Amos Hale and Sarah Day, March 23, 1779.
- M.—Abiel Boynton and Lois Raymond, March 30, 1779.
- M.—Levi Bixby and Tabitha Boynton, May 13, 1779.
- M.—David Foster and Elizabeth Minot, May 27, 1779.
- M.—Joseph Mastick and Mary Putnam, Sept. 14, 1779.
- M.—Edward Putnam and Hannah Mastick, Sept. 28, 1779.
- M.—Amos Raymond and Alice Joslin, Dec. 9, 1779.
- M.—Joseph Stimson and Elizabeth Goodenough, April 27, 1780.
- M.—David Heywood and Abigail Bixby, May 11, 1780.
- M.—Zebulon Stratton and Jerush Bradish, June 9, 1780.
- M.—Samuel Bradish and Hannah Dunton, Nov. 29, 1780.
- M.—Ahimaaz Sherwin and Ruth Day, Dec. 1780.
- M.—Edward Payson and Eunice Nichols, Sept. 2, 1771.
- M.—Antipas Dodge and Luhy Woodward, March 8, 1772.
- M.—David Wilder and Elizabeth Reed, Nov. 28, 1782.
- M.—Nathaniel Bixby and Abigail Heywood, March 15, 1782.
- M.—Nathan Stoddard and Lydia Dunton, July 1, 1784.
- M.—Dr. Israel Whiton and Dolly Crosby, Nov. 2 1784.
- M.—Phillips Sweetzer, 3d, and Persis Joslin, May 29 1785.
- M.—Abel Brown and Sally Stoddard, June 23, 1785.
- M.—Daniel Bradish and Phebe Jones, August 4, 1785.
- M.—Capt. Allen Todd, foreigner, and Mary Millage, Boston, August 12, 1785.
- M.—Beamsly Lord and Sally Stimson, Oct. 5, 1785.
- M.—Amos Heywood and Mrs. Kezia Person, Oct. 6, 1785.
- M.—Paul Heywood and Amity Darling, Dec. 15, 1785.
- M.—Zephaniah Wood and Sarah Litch, Feb. 28, 1785.
- Int.—John Kidder and Dolly Joslin, Jan'y 7, 1785.
- Int.—Nathan Maynard and Lydia Butler, January, 1785.
- Int.—Francis Whitcomb and Alice Houghton, October, 1785.
- Int.—Jonathan Broadstreet and Elizabeth Handsome, February, 1785."

The above, with few exceptions, were married by Rev. Joseph Brown. Afterwards, quite a number were joined in marriage by Abel Wilder and Samuel Crosby, Esqrs. It appears that many families were numerous; sometimes the children counted up to ten or twelve and even fifteen; in a few cases perhaps the number was still greater. The contrast is certainly great between those times and these, when—in a certain stratum of society—it takes three families to raise two children. It would seem as if female labor, in every sense of the word, was in the process of transfer, here in New England, from native-born women to

the daughters of Irish and German blood. If so, then population, wealth, power and honor, will be the inheritance of their children.

At this point the History of Winchendon, as originally designed, should end. The year 1864 filled out one hundred years from the incorporation of the town. A few facts, however, belonging to the following years, have been inserted. And as the expressed wish of the town, and the obvious propriety of the case, requires, another chapter will be added, giving the action of the town, and of her brave soldiers, in putting down the late wicked rebellion.

NOTE. Under the name Greenwood, on page 456, several names were omitted. The children of Thomas Greenwood were :

1. John ; 2. Deborah, m. Stephen Tolman ; 3. Oliver ; 4. Thomas ; 5. Henry ; 6. Sophia, m. Levi Raymond . 7. Levi.

CHAPTER XXXIII.—THE WAR OF  
FREEDOM.

“In peace, there’s nothing so becomes a man,  
As modest stillness and humility;  
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,  
Then imitate the action of the tiger;  
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,  
Disguise fair nature with hard-favor’d rage:  
Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;—  
Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide;  
Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit  
To its full height.”

HENRY V.

## SECTION 1.—OUTBREAK OF THE REBELLION.

In this chapter will be given as much of the history of the town in connection with the rebellion, as can be condensed into the space that is left. The people here had partaken of the spirit of the loyal North, during all the months of winter, while the southern states were preparing to secede from the Union, form a southern confederacy, and set the national government at defiance. When the news came, on the 14th of April, that the rebels had made their nefarious attack on fort Sumter, and that it had been surrendered to them by Major Anderson, and his few brave soldiers, the hearts of the people were animated by one common desire and determination to uphold the government, suppress the rebellion, and at the same time, remove the cause of it, by the abolition of slavery. At that time, public sentiment with us was in advance of the nation generally and of the authorities at Washington. With almost entire unanimity, the voice of the citizens was for war, not from revenge, or from hatred of the southern rebels, but because of their love of country and of freedom.

Without any formal call, the inhabitants held large meetings on Monday and Tuesday evenings, April 15th and 16th, to give expression to their feelings, and to organize for action. The meeting on Monday

evening was held in the town hall ; that on Tuesday evening assembled in the street, between the town hall and the post office, because no hall or church would accommodate the multitude. Hon. Giles H. Whitney presided and addresses were made by many gentlemen, all animated by a fervent love of the national flag. Some of the speakers were Messrs. Whitney, Dr. Godding, Capt. E. Murdock, O. Mason, G. S. Whitney, I. M. Murdock, R. Harris, Rev. T. B. Treadwell and Rev. Mr. Marvin. The two latter spoke from the top of the piazza in front of Capt. Murdock's store. All the speeches were brief and to the point. It was the voice of all, that Winchendon must and would do her part in upholding the government of our fathers by suppressing the wicked rebellion.

## SECTION 2.—EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC MIND.

The effect of the surrender of fort Sumter, on the public mind, did not terminate in meetings and resolutions. The sentiment of the people took shape, at once, in raising money and volunteers, and by all measures by which anything could be done for the good of the great cause. The young men, especially, were urgent to take the field. The first effort was to raise a company in the town, but as there were impediments to success in this attempt, some, in their ardor to be in the field, went to other places, and offered themselves as soldiers. Several made a provisional arrangement with a company in Ashburnham ; and when that fell through, joined the second regiment of Massachusetts volunteers, under Col. Gordon. In the meantime, meetings of the citizens were held for drill in the town hall, and the ladies manifested the liveliest interest in the work of enlistment, and the warmest sympathy with those who " girded on the armor." In public worship on the Sabbath, and in all prayer meetings, the cause of the country and the welfare of the soldiers, were presented at the throne of divine grace. The movement assumed the character of a sacred contest, a "war of the Lord."

## SECTION 3.—ACTION OF THE TOWN.

While the people were thus pressing forward, in an informal way, the town was preparing for organized action. The first town meeting was held on the 27th of April. One article in the warrant was in these words :

“To see what action the town will take at this alarming crisis of the country, in regard to the raising of a military company, to assist in the suppression of Rebellion, Insurrection or Invasion.”

Giles H. Whitney, Esq., was chosen Moderator. A committee of five was appointed by the chair, to recommend the appropriation of a certain sum of money for the purpose of sustaining a military company, to act in the present crisis, and also to recommend some measures calculated to encourage the forming of such a company. O. Mason, H. O. Clark, Sidney Fairbank, Seth Tucker and John H. Fairbank were appointed. The committee soon reported, recommending :

“That the town appropriate a sum not exceeding \$5,000 for the purpose specified above.

That we guarantee to all persons volunteering to form said company, who are able-bodied, and found to answer the requirements of the commander-in-chief : first, a suitable uniform ; second, a good revolver ; third, eight dollars per month, in addition to the pay from government, for the time the company is absent in the service of the country.

Those who enlist and are suitable for service, one dollar a day for every day they are drilled, for a term of time not exceeding one month.

If a full company cannot be raised in this town, the same guaranty be made to any number of citizens not less than twenty-five, who shall join with any neighboring town in making up a full company.

Also, that all between eighteen and twenty-five, meet at the town hall, every Saturday afternoon at two o'clock, for the purpose of drill.”

At the same time, Sidney Fairbanks, Orlando Mason and Baxter D. Whitney, were chosen a committee to take in charge the raising a volunteer militia company in this town. This committee reported to a subsequent meeting that a company could not be raised ; but perhaps a company could be raised in Winchendon and Gardner.

#### SECTION 4.—SYMPATHY WITH THE SOLDIERS.

The effort to form a company here failed ; and no arrangement was effected with the soldiers of other towns. But the spirit of the young men was up, and they sought connection with companies and regiments elsewhere. Among the first to enlist were the following, viz: Theodore K. Parker, Edwin A. Pollard, J. Hervey Taylor, Harrison A. Crocker, George H. Boston, Henry S. Pierce, Frederick Maynard, George A.

Bruce, Charles F. Pope, Isaac Hadley and Henry Partridge. Some if not all of these, at first joined a company in Ashburnham; but soon left it, and became members of Co. D, Capt. Savage, in the Second Regiment, under command of Col. Gordon. Much interest in these young pioneers was felt by all—men, women and children. They were regarded as the advance guard of the town, and the hopes and prayers, as well as fears and anxieties of the people, went with them. The following letter is inserted here at length, because it expressed the general thought and sympathy of the community at the time. It will also furnish some interesting facts in regard to the action of individuals and societies in behalf of the soldiers.

WINCHENDON, MAY 27, 1861.

*To Messrs. Parker, Pollard, Taylor, Crocker, Boston, Pierce, Maynard, Bruce, Pope, Hadley, and any others, who may be members of Col. Gordon's regiment, from this town:*

GENTLEMEN AND FRIENDS:—

I have felt a very strong desire to visit you in your camp at West Roxbury, before you leave for the seat of war. But as I cannot do this, I yield to the request of others, and to the impulses of my own heart, in writing you a letter, which I trust you will receive as coming from a friend, who respects and honors you for enlisting in this necessary and sacred war, and who earnestly desires your highest welfare.

While conversing with Dea. Parker, on Saturday, in regard to addressing this letter to you, it seemed to me that before doing so, an effort ought to be made to see if our citizens would not do something to show their interest in you, who are to be our brave representatives in the field of strife. Accordingly, notice was given in Church, yesterday, that a prayer-meeting would be held in the Congregational Lecture Room, at half-past five, in behalf of our country, and especially of the young soldiers who belong to this town, and it was stated that measures would be proposed for raising a contribution in their behalf.

At the appointed time, there was a full meeting, composed of citizens of various denominations, and it was a season of great interest and solemnity. Earnest prayers were offered that you, our young fellow-townsmen, might be faithful and courageous in all military duties; that God would shield you in the day of battle, and that you all might be led to put your personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following resolutions were then read and unanimously adopted, after

remarks by Dr. Godding, Dea. Butler, Dea. Parker, Messrs. G. S. Whitney, O. Mason, H. O. Clark, J. H. Fairbank, Harvey Wyman and myself.

*Resolved*, That we honor the young men, our fellow-townsmen, who have gone forth from among us, to engage in the war that has been forced upon us by the enemies of freedom.

*Resolved*, That as a proof of our sympathy, we will raise a subscription in their behalf as a partial remuneration for the expenses they have already incurred; that they may be able, in some measure, to mitigate the rough hardships of the camp.

*Resolved*, That we will remember them when we invoke the blessings of Heaven on ourselves, and pray that God would ever have them in his holy keeping.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. H. O. Clark, Harvey Wyman, J. H. Fairbank, G. B. Parker and Nelson Wyman, be a committee to collect funds, to be appropriated as follows, viz: five dollars to be given to each of the soldiers, and the remainder—ten dollars for each, more or less,—to be put into a common fund and deposited with some officer of the regiment who may be designated by our volunteers, and who shall disburse the same as their wants may require.

*Resolved*, That the volunteers be desired to make known their wants, as they may arise hereafter, to the above committee, and that they may be assured that these will be promptly attended to by their friends at home.

*Resolved*, That Dea. G. B. Parker be hereby requested to visit camp Andrew, and convey to our friends, the volunteers, the money which shall be raised, and whatever other articles may be sent by him, at our expense."

These resolutions were passed with an earnestness which would have cheered you if you had been present, and I believe they express the general feeling of the town. Immediately after the close of the meeting, the committee entered on their work, and received twenty-six dollars on the spot. They have continued their exertions to-day, with the following result.

As the people were passing out, several young ladies, recently members of the High School, asked me if it was too late for them to do something. I told them it was not, and that if they would prepare some handkerchiefs, towels, and articles of that sort, I presumed they would be kindly received. Whereupon they made their plans, and this morning, they have made up the package of articles which Dea. Parker will deliver to you. They would gladly do more, but the time is short, and they do not know your wants. I need not mention their names, because all the girls in the town participate in the feelings which have prompted those whose busy fingers have prepared this package.

I ought to mention that some weeks since, the ladies of the Methodist Society voted to work in behalf of the soldiers, when there should be a call upon them, and also that the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Orthodox Church, at their last meeting, passed a similar vote ; but as they did not know of your plans before your leaving home, nothing could be done. I may add that the latter Society purchased the articles sent herewith, and that the young ladies prepared them for use.

These facts, gentlemen, are detailed at such length, that you may be assured of the deep and universal sympathy of the people of the town in you as the soldiers who have gone forth to represent us in the great contest which has been so wickedly brought upon our beloved country. We feel that you are going to engage in a war for *government* against *revolution and anarchy*, for *freedom* against *slavery*, for *civilization* against *barbarism*, and for the *christian religion* in opposition to a *religion of caste*. It is a holy war to which we are imperatively called by the providence of God, and we want you to enter into it, not rashly, not with the spirit of bloodshed and plunder, but as the friends of good government, and the servants of the Most High.

Thinking you may have leisure moments for reading, we have requested Dea. Parker to call at the book-store of the Tract Society in Boston, and procure a quantity of the books which have been expressly prepared for the soldiers, and which are highly approved by Pres. Lincoln, Sec'y Cameron and Gen. Scott. We hope that you will read these, as well as the Holy Bible, because we believe that the truth of God, if heartily received, will not only render you more valiant in the field, but will make you wise unto salvation.

I know it will not pain you to hear that earnest prayers are offered in your behalf, in all our meetings ; that you are affectionately remembered when families bow around the family altar, and that many men and women seek the divine blessing for you when they are alone with God.

I need not say that I have had a strong interest in you all, from the beginning of the effort made to raise a company in this town. Your disappointment was keenly felt by me. My heart prompts me to take the field with you, if that course were for the best. But as it is not for me to be with you in person, I shall follow you, step by step, in spirit. I shall contemplate you as faithful in all the duties of the camp ; temperate in all your habits ; attentive to all the religious services of the Chaplain, and stout of heart in the field of bloody strife. I shall pray for you, that you may all, at once, give up yourselves to Jesus Christ, to be his servants ; that you may have true repentance for your sins ; that you may be ready for death at any moment, through faith in him who died to save all who love him ; and that you may have the blessing of the Lord of Hosts in all your labors and sufferings in the defence of our glorious Union.



I shall be glad to greet you when you return from the war, if God shall grant us that happiness ; but if you never return, I assure you that your memories will be cherished, and your names shall be held in lasting honor."

The articles above specified, were gratefully received by the soldiers, not merely on account of their value, but chiefly because they evinced the esteem and approbation of the fair donors. Before the regiment left for the seat of war, most of the above named soldiers came home to take leave of their friends. Two of them, in behalf of the whole number, called on the writer of the letter, and expressed their gratitude and that of their comrades, for the gifts and the words of cheer which they had received. One of these was Mr. Parker, who entered the service a private, and came out, after the triumphant march of Sherman, a captain ; the other was Mr. Maynard, who fell dead on the second day of the battle at Gettysburg, in consequence of his dauntless courage, which impelled him to attack the assailants in front of the line. No braver man fell on that decisive day. The soldiers whose names have been mentioned above, with perhaps one exception, did good service. Farther particulars respecting them will be given in subsequent pages.

The following entered the service in June of this year, for the term of three years. William S. Hersey, John Taylor, William T. Wells, joined Co. C, Sixteenth Regiment, Capt. L. G. King.

#### SECTION 5.—VOLUNTEERING.

On the fourth of July, 1861, a town meeting was held, Dea. John Cutter being Moderator. The town voted :

"That the Selectmen be instructed to carry out the provisions of chapter 222 of the the Acts of 1861."

The 222d chapter relates to "aid of the families of volunteers," &c. As it promoted volunteering, this is the proper place to cite one of its Sections. It reads as follows :

"Sect. 1. Any town or city may raise money by taxation, and, if necessary, apply the same, under the direction of their selectmen, or mayor and aldermen, or city council, for the aid of the wife, and of the children under sixteen years of age, of any one of their inhabitants, who, as a member of the volunteer militia of this State, may have been mustered into or enlisted in the service of the United States, and for each parent, brother or sister or child, who, at the time of his enlistment, was dependent on him for support."

At a town meeting held on the 14th of September, Calvin R. Whitman being in the chair, it was voted :

“That the town authorize the Selectmen to pay out of the money raised for contingent expenses, to families of volunteers, the following sums : one dollar per week for the wife, and one dollar per week for each child under sixteen years of age, that was dependent on said volunteer for support at the time of his enlistment ; provided, that the whole sum does not exceed twelve dollars per month to any such inhabitant.”

At this time the list of persons liable to enrollment in the Militia of Massachusetts, contained four hundred and eighty-three names. The names of those who volunteered, with their Co. and Reg't, are here inserted. The first named enlisted in July, and their term expired in July, 1864. In Co. B, Thirteenth Regiment, Capt. Simonds, were the following, viz :

Amable Beaudry,  
William E. Bailey,  
Robert Bruce,  
Nap. B. Bruce,  
Edwin Chase,  
Andrew Fisher,  
Seth R. Fisher,  
R. E. Hartwell,  
Wm. W. Holman,  
Chas. W. Kendall,  
Edward S. Kendall,  
Oscar A. Kendall,  
Francis H. Loud,  
Henry C. Lowell,  
Winthrop Maynard,

Joseph B. Matthews,  
Charles F. Pope,  
Andrew Riley,  
Abram Scott,  
Elijah M. Scott,  
Walter D. Scott,  
Stillman Safford,  
Fred. C. Stewart,  
Charles A. Stevens,  
William E. Taylor,  
George S. Taylor,  
Horace H. Wyman,  
Enoch Whitney,  
Benjamin Whitcomb.”

In Co. A, Twenty-first Regiment, Capt. Bradford, were the following, viz :

George W. Bradish,  
Jacques Gowing,  
Stephen Miller,

George E. Cook,  
Augustus E. Houghton.

John Welch was a member of Co. D in the same Regiment. In Co. G, same Regiment, were the following volunteers from Winchendon, under command of Capt. A. A. Walker, viz :

Patrick Brabston,  
Charles A. Crayton,  
Andrew J. Flagg,

Patrick Finton,  
George E. Gorman,  
Henry Haskell,

George H. Matthews,  
Jerome L. Stevens,  
Robert N. Shaw,  
James S. Stratton,  
Josiah T. Town,

Herbert E. Weston,  
John Wells,  
Edwin Welis,  
Thomas Wells,  
Richard M. Whitney.

In Co. F, Twenty-first Reg't, was J. Henry Lake ; in Co. I, Eighteenth Reg't, was Albert G. Nutting ; in Co. —, Ninth Regiment, was Martin McCabe ; in Co. L, Seventh Cavalry, was George Thomas ; in Sharpshooters, was George L. Norcross ; in Co. C, Follett's Battery, was Daniel Norcross, and in Co. C, Twentieth Regiment, was Frank Sawtell.

The following volunteered later in the year, as September, October and December, viz : Charles Bates, Otis Rice, Nelson Rice and Dennis Sullivan, in the Third Vt. Regt., whose time expired in September, 1864 ; Everard Alger, George Brown 2d, Charles H. Stratton, John Simonds, Albert H. Whitcomb and Sidney L. Reed, in Co. F, Twenty-fifth Regiment, whose time expired in October, 1864 ; Jason L. Coffin, S. Jones Hale and William Welch, in Co. C, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Capt. Stevenson, whose term expired in December, 1864. This list comprises all, or nearly all, who enlisted in the year 1861. The number is eighty. Perhaps others entered the service during this season, in some Massachusetts Regiment ; it is certain that some joined Regiments in other States.

The first year of the war will ever be remembered as a year of disaster. With partial success in some localities, the Union armies generally met with defeat. At Bull Run, after almost winning the day, our forces were driven from the field in a shameful rout. The unexplained attack at Ball's Bluff was repulsed with great loss to the loyal troops. Several of our men, in the Fifteenth Regiment were in this fight, and sought safety by crossing the Potomac, in whose chilling waters many brave men found their too early grave. Horace H. Wyman crossed the river safely, by wading and swimming. He was able to help Col. Ward across. Elijah M. Scott was probably either killed on the shore, or was lost in the river. There was mourning in some families, and anxiety in all. Meantime, busy fingers and liberal hearts were engaged in providing for the comfort of the soldiers. Supplies of all kinds, by various agencies, were sent to our men ; and the communication by letter was frequent. Thus active sympathy was kept up be-

tween those at home and their friends in the field. The expedition of Burnside to North Carolina, which met hardship at every step, but which was crowned with success, had several Winchendon men, who did their duty with fidelity. But it is not possible or desirable, in this brief narrative, to give a history of the war, or even of the regiments to which our men were attached.

#### SECTION 6.—RAISING TROOPS IN 1862.

In the spring of 1862 it became evident that the rebellion could not be put down, unless the government should put forth its strength with greater energy than had yet characterized its movements. Accordingly, the President issued a call for three hundred thousand men, and the requisition met a hearty response. But as business had recovered from the paralysis which had seized it on the breaking out of the rebellion, and as wages were higher, the services of the soldiers deserved increased pay. Therefore bounties were resorted to, that those who remained at home, might in a measure, share the privations of those who took the field. A town meeting was held on the 19th of July, 1862, when it was voted :

“That under the recent call from government, for three hundred thousand men, this town is called upon to furnish a certain number, in making up the quota for this state. That this town will pay to such men as will enlist within twenty days, to make up the required number, one hundred dollars each, in addition to the bounty offered by government, to be paid as follows : \$25, as soon as the recruit is sworn into service, and \$75 at the expiration of the term for which he enlists, with interest from the true date of his being sworn into service. And if the recruit prefer, the \$75 shall be paid to his family, or to those dependent on him for their support, by his order, at such times, and in such sums, as the Selectmen may think required. In case of death, what is due shall be paid to his heirs. *Provided*, if any volunteer prefer to receive the whole bounty of \$100 at the time he is sworn into service, he shall be paid accordingly.”

The Treasurer was authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding \$5,000, to carry out the above vote. At the same time, a committee was chosen from the different districts, to act as a rallying committee, to assist the Selectmen in obtaining recruits : One from each district, and an additional one in Nos. 2, 3 and 9, as follows :

"District No. 1, Charles J. Rice ; 2, Bethuel Ellis, William Murdock ; 3, A. W. Buttrick, H. O. Clark ; 4, Nelson D. White ; 5, Seth Maynard ; 7, Paul Raymond, Jr. ; 8, John B. Brown ; 9, James Marsh, Jairus Hastings ; 10, Reuben Harris ; 11, Minot Patch."

On the 2d of August, a committee consisting of Alvah Godding, James Marsh and Giles H. Whitney, was chosen to provide speakers to address the citizens of the town upon the subject of the war. The Hon. A. H. Bullock spoke to a large audience, with characteristic force and persuasiveness. It was reported that this town's quota of forty-eight men had been filled by volunteers.

Another meeting was held on the 16th of August—Joseph S. Watson in the chair—when, on motion of Seth Tucker, it was voted :

"That this town will pay to each man that will enlist, within the next fifteen days, to make up the quota of this town, of the last 300,000 men called for by the government, the sum of \$100, upon their being sworn into service."

From this vote it may be inferred that the report in respect to the filling of the quota had been premature. However, the men were raised in time, and the town kept in advance of the demands made upon it throughout the war. The Treasurer was authorized to borrow, under the direction of the Selectmen, a sum of money not exceeding \$5,000, to carry into effect the above vote. About this time a call came for nine months men, in consequence of which a town meeting was held on the 13th of September, when it was voted :

"To pay to each volunteer—an inhabitant of this town,—to fill a company of nine months men from this town, under the last call of the government for 300,000 men, the sum of \$100, upon their being sworn into the service of the United States."

During this year the amount paid to the families of volunteers, was \$1,095.65.

The names of the men who volunteered during the year 1862, under the calls specified above, with the date when their term of service expired, here follows : In Co. I, Twenty-sixth Regiment, whose term closed in February, 1865, were the following volunteers from this town, viz :

Baldwin, H. H.,  
Ball, Jos. J. T.,

| Beal, Madison,  
| Brooks, Levi W.,

Clough, Lewis V.,  
 Elford, William,  
 Fitzgerald, Michael,  
 Gowan, George,  
 Harwood, Joseph H.  
 Hyde, Alfred,  
 Knowlton, George,  
 Lawrence, Houghton.

Parks, Elwin A.,  
 Powers, Henry,  
 Powers, Warren,  
 Prentiss, Samuel H.,  
 Rich, Jerome T.,  
 Sawtell, Orcasto L.,  
 Taylor, Eardley N.,  
 Townsend, William.

The following were in Co. D, Thirtieth Regiment, and their term expired in April, 1865: David Caswell, Frederick Leland, Alson Norcross, Charles Samson and John Spalding. In Co. D, Thirty-fourth Regiment, was Paul Paro, whose term expired in August, 1865. In Co. B, Thirty-second Regiment, was Whitney Thompson; term expired August, 1865. Wesley B. Baldwin enlisted in the Sixth Battery.

Company D, Thirty-sixth Regiment, whose term expired in August, 1865, had the following men from Winchendon, viz:

Alger, Cyrus,  
 Allen, Austin E.,  
 Bosworth, Henry E.,  
 Breen, Peter,  
 Brooks, George W.,  
 Brown, Frederick M.,  
 Byam, Charles F.,  
 Chamberlain, Stillman F.,  
 Chase, Daniel W.,  
 Chase, William D.,  
 Coburn, M. Van Buren,  
 Combs, John L.,  
 Cutter, John C.,  
 Damon, Theodore F.,  
 Demary, John M.,  
 Felch, Samuel C.,  
 Fisher, C. B.,  
 Foskett, Liberty W.,  
 Foskett, Wellington,  
 French, Adam E.,  
 Gilman, Jeremiah,  
 Godding, Edward.

Hale, Livesey B.,  
 Hayden, Charles W.,  
 Holman, Albert G.,  
 Hale, S. B.,  
 Howard, Marcus M.,  
 Lippit, Joseph,  
 Morrill, Oscar,  
 Parker, Cornelius G.,  
 Partridge, Greenwood,  
 Perry, Francis D.,  
 Plummer, George E.,  
 Powers, Hiram E.,  
 Rich, J. Munroe,  
 Rich, Robert T.,  
 Sawtell, Alden,  
 Smith, William 2d.,  
 Tatso, Marcus,  
 Tenny, James H.,  
 Warner, Edwin T.,  
 Whitney, Franklin L.,  
 Wilder, B. Oliver,  
 Williams, Alfred H.

The following enlisted under the call dated October 7, for three years.

Bruce, Robert,  
 Doyle, Luke,  
 Dunn, Isaac F.,

Chiller, Frank,  
 Farnum, William S.,  
 Snow, Henry E.

Near the close of the year 1862, the Fifty-third Regiment of nine

months men was formed, and left for the Gulf of Mexico, and the region of the lower Mississippi. In Co. H of this Regiment, were the following men from Winchendon, viz :

Alger, Edward,  
Baldwin, John,  
Beaman, William P.,  
Bickford, Leander E.,  
Bowker, Joseph,  
Bryant, G. Q. A.,  
Buttrick, H. Newell,  
Carriel, Almon E.,  
Coburn, Charles E.,  
Fitzgerald, Patrick,  
Flint, Eleazar,  
Flint, William M.,  
Gibson, A. A.,  
Gorman, Isaac,  
Handy, Jonathan,  
Harding, Darius H.,  
Hartwell, John H.,  
Hill, Josiah,  
Hill, Theodore J.,  
Houghton, John M.,  
Hubbard, Timothy F.,  
Kinney, John O.,

Mitchell, John,  
Moore, Dexter,  
Mosman, Orange,  
McLennan, Donald,  
Nimms, Samuel H.,  
Norcross, Alson,  
Norcross, Salmon A.,  
Packard, Freeman A.,  
Page, George,  
Parks, George H.,  
Piper, George H.,  
Putney Charles,  
Raymond, James A.,  
Reed, Sidney L.,  
Smith, William J.,  
Stearns, Charles T.,  
Sweetzer, Joseph,  
Tatro, Charles,  
Tatro, Lewis,  
Warren, Charles A.,  
Wyman, John M.

Of the men from this town the following died before the close of the year 1862; viz : Levi W. Brooks, Theodore F. Damon, G. C. Parker, George H. Matthews, Josiah T. Towne, James S. Stratton, Thomas Wells, J. Henry Lake, Albert G. Nutting, and perhaps others. The Thirty-sixth Regiment was in the battle of Antietam, and our men shared in the peril and the victory. Stratton was conspicuous in the combats near Newbern, N. C., and fought like a true soldier at Antietam, where he was killed. Lake was killed at Chantilly, Sept. 27, doing his duty. Matthews, equally faithful, was mortally wounded at Roanoke, on the 8th of February. Others received wounds in the service.

The bodies of several of those who had fallen in the field, or had died by lingering disease in the camp, were brought home for burial. There was a peculiar interest in the funerals, which were largely attended by those who sympathized with the bereaved relatives, and who respected the heroic dead. Much was done also in sending out supplies to the

soldiers, who were always kept in thoughtful remembrance while absent at the post of duty and exposure.

#### SECTION 7.—RECORD OF 1863.

At the March meeting it was voted "not to enforce the collection of the poll tax assessed upon volunteers in the service, and that where the poll tax has been paid, it should be refunded; "and on the 27th of April, it was voted, "that the Selectmen be instructed to render aid to all such families of volunteers for which, under any law, the town may be reimbursed by the State." This looks, on the face of it, as if the money paid to the families of soldiers, cost nothing to the town; but it will be borne in mind, that the town was taxed to enable the State to grant the "aid." The action of the State only served to equalize the burden throughout the Commonwealth. At this date sixty-five of the enrolled militia were in the service of the United States.

At another meeting held on the 3d of November, the town voted "that the Selectmen be instructed to pay and adjust the town's proportion of the tax created by virtue of chap. 218 of the Acts of 1863, in accordance with sec. 9 of said Acts."

The amount of aid furnished to families of volunteers during the year ending December 31, 1863, was \$6,420.68.

After the Fifty-third Regiment sailed from New York for the southwest, in January, there was but little volunteering in this town, except as returned soldiers re-enlisted. Among those who entered the service a second time, were Jaques Gowing, Stephen Miller, Everard Alger, John Simonds, Lewis V. Clough, Jerome T. Rich, George H. Parks, and it may be others.

This was a year of mourning in many households. Among those killed in battle were the following: Rollins E. Hartwell, a good soldier, fell at Chancellorville, in May. Frederick Maynard sprang at the foe, at Gettysburg, and was killed by a ball in his forehead, on the 3d of July. Elwin A. Parks was killed at Lafourche, La., on the 21st of June. Others were killed either in this year or the next; as Peter Breen, S. B. Hale, Alden J. Sawtell. Timothy F. Hubbard was killed by the fall of a tree, on the 23d of March. He was sitting in his tent, between his friends Bryant and Stearns. He had been reading in the Testament, and also a letter from his wife, which was still in his hand, while a smile was on his face. The wind was high, a limb was broken



from the tree overhead, and came crashing through the tent. It struck Hubbard on the head, leaving his friends unharmed. He died in a few hours.

The number who died in the army was large, especially of those belonging to the Fifty-third Regiment. Edward Alger died on the 19th of July; H. N. Buttrick, May 18; John Baldwin, May 2; D. H. Harding, August 3; Josiah Hill, July 19; Theodore J. Hill, June 25; D. McClennan, July 2; Charles Putney, August 24; James A. Raymond, February 19; William J. Smith, March 26; John M. Wyman, May 20. Members of other Regiments died at the following dates: George E. Plummer, November 16; Hiram E. Powers, September 23; George Knowlton, May; Leander E. Bickford died at home, May 18. Probably others died this year.

The liberality of the citizens in raising money and sending out supplies to their friends in the field was praiseworthy. Besides, contributions were frequently made to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, in promoting the same object. The amount given in these and other ways, will be summed up in another place.

Under the call for nine months men, as might have been related in the record of the preceding year, a strong effort was made to form a Winchendon company. As the Regiment to which it belonged did not sail until the beginning of this year, it is not out of place to refer to the subject in connection with this year's events. By a union with men from Hubbardston and Warwick, and a few from Phillipston, a Company was formed which was called the Winchendon Company. Half or more of the members were from this town. J. B. Sawyer was chosen captain, and A. A. Gibson, first lieutenant. Several of the non-commissioned officers belonged here, so that Co. H was mainly officered by Winchendon men, and the interest and pride of the citizens were enlisted in its fortunes. But it so happened that its commissioned officers, through all the time of service, were all from other towns. Capt. Sawyer resigned, and Lieut. Lyman Woodward of Hubbardston, was chosen in his place. Mr. Gibson was chosen first lieutenant, and then resigned, when George E. Priest of Watertown, was chosen. Russell Carruth of Phillipston, became second lieutenant. The first serjeant was Oren Marcan of Hubbardston, but on account of his ill health, the duties were performed by Charles T. Stearns, second serjeant. This

result was the source of regret, but it was mitigated by the fact that the officers were competent, and had the confidence of the men. The company went into camp at Groton Junction, in October, 1862; sailed for New York on the last of November, and after a tedious delay, in cold and wet, in that city, embarked, early in January, 1863, on board the Mississippi, for the Gulf of Mexico. There was however so much sickness among the men, it was deemed prudent to put them on shore. In about a fortnight, that is, on the 16th of January, the Regiment shipped in the steamer Continental for New Orleans. They had a rough passage, in which they suffered much from storms of wind and rain, as well as from fire and sickness, in close quarters, but reached New Orleans on the last day of January. From that day, till they started for home, *via* the Mississippi, and the northern railroads, the company was in constant service, and took part in several conflicts. They had the pleasure of seeing Port Hudson fall on the 8th of July. In the siege, Co. H, in common with the Regiment, was exposed to imminent peril, and rendered efficient service under fire; but lost not a single man in action.

The government being in need of more troops, and the volunteers coming in slowly, resort was had to conscription. An Act was passed by Congress for recruiting the forces of the United States, and a new enrollment of men liable to do military duty, was ordered. The enrolling officer for Winchendon was Hon. Giles H. Whitney. The enrollment was ordered for July 1, 1863. The enrolled men were divided into two classes. The first included all between twenty and thirty-five years, and the unmarried men and widowers between thirty-five and forty-five. The second class comprised the married men who were more than thirty-five but under forty-five years of age. The number required of Winchendon was eighty-three. Of these, only one man went into the service, viz: Sidney N. Smith. Twenty-four others were found, on examination, to be qualified, but they paid the commutation fee of \$300, and were not required to take the field. The remainder, being fifty-eight, were aliens, or disabled, or had relations dependent on them, and so were not liable to do military duty under the call. The following are the names of those who paid the required \$300. Some of them found it difficult to raise the money and they deserve due credit, because the fee was their direct contribution for the preservation of their country.

Adams, Walter R.,  
 Aldrich, Marcus,  
 Baldwin, Marcus M.,  
 Brown, Frederic P.,  
 Childs, Andrew A.,  
 Dray, Edward,  
 Dunn, Josiah J.,  
 Hayward, Charles B.,  
 Kemp, Horatio J.,  
 Nutting, Wm. H.,  
 Plummer, Charles W.,  
 Parks, Wm. M.,

Parker, Samuel W.,  
 Rice, Charles J.,  
 Robbins, Amos D.,  
 Shaler, Adam M.,  
 Sibley, Charles,  
 Sibley, Delano H.,  
 Stevens, Charles A.,  
 Streeter, A. W.,  
 Sullivan, Patrick,  
 Wilson, Edward E.,  
 Wilson, Milton A.,  
 Woodward, Amos.

Under the call of October 17, 1863, the following men enlisted, viz : Robert Bruce, Luke Doyle, Isaac J. Dunn, Frank Chiller, Wm. O. Farnum, and Henry E. Snow. Farnum was not accepted, and Snow ran off, leaving four to enter the service.

#### SECTION 8.—RECRUITING IN 1864.

At the annual town meeting, March 7, 1864, it was voted to raise \$2000, State aid, for the families of volunteers.

Meetings of citizens were held in April, May and June, to raise money by subscription, with which to procure men,—residents or otherwise,—to fill out the quota of the town. This statement explains the following action of the town.

At a regular town meeting held on the 25th of April, it was voted "to raise \$4,100, to be applied, under the direction of the Selectmen, in reimbursing individuals for money already contributed and paid, in aid of, and for the purpose of procuring its proportion of the quota of volunteers in the military service called for from this Commonwealth, under the order of the President of the United States, dated October 17, 1863, and February 1, 1864 ; and that the money be assessed upon the polls and estates of the inhabitants and non-residents of the town, and paid into the treasury as other taxes are paid."

On the 30th of July the town instructed the treasurer "to borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$7000, to be applied under the direction of the Selectmen, to pay one hundred and twenty-five dollars for each man applied to the quota of the town since March 1, 1864."

The war expenses for the year 1864, were \$9,677.62.

The greater part of the soldiers secured this year, were procured through brokers, at considerable expense. It is impossible to state ex-

actly how many men were obtained, or what was paid for each, as no record was kept by the town, and the papers of committees are in a chaotic state. The raising of money, and the procuring of men, were done by committees chosen at meetings of the citizens. The money raised thus by subscription, was afterwards refunded by the town, except about \$5,000.00. The men were not obtained at uniform prices.

One lot of twenty cost \$95.00 per man, or \$1900.00; four others cost \$110.00 each, or \$440.00. Some cost \$125.00, and others still \$250.00, or more. All possible efforts to secure accuracy have been made; the results as to men and money raised to obtain them, will be given on a subsequent page.

It should be stated that the meetings held in the spring and early summer of 1864, were frequent, and the committees chosen were efficient. These meetings were presided over at different times by Harvey Wyman, O. Mason, and Giles H. Whitney. John D. Howard was Secretary, and he has kindly shown me the records of the proceedings. The committee men chosen at different times to carry out the designs of the meetings, were Orlando Mason, Bethuel Ellis, John H. Fairbanks, James Marsh, G. W. Converse, Charles A. Loud, George M. Whitney, Archus S. Kimball, William H. Grant, John O. Kinney, Levi M. Parks, A. H. Britton, C. J. Bryant, and George B. Raymond. Mr. Converse acted as treasurer for receiving subscriptions. At a citizens' meeting held about this time,—date not recorded,—the following report was made by a committee.

“Your committee recommend that each enrolled man pay a sum not less than fifteen dollars for the purpose of procuring forty-five men, more or less. That a subscription be taken up, and a paper be presented to each enrolled man, as well as all others, on or before Tuesday evening next.

They also recommend that the sum of \$5,625.00 be raised by taxation, in order to secure the above-mentioned forty-five men, provided the like sum be raised by subscription.

Voted to accept and adopt the report.”

It was deemed just to ask the enrolled men for a subscription, and one larger than the average on the whole of the citizens, because they would thus be released from the necessity of going into the field.

The number of men recruited, (most of them by the agency of brokers,) during the year 1864, was not far from fifty. The names

of those belonging to this town, with the date of enlistment, &c., here follow: George H. Parks, veteran, Dec. 22, 1863, entered Fifty-seventh Reg't.; Isaac J. Dunn, January 4, 1864, Thirty-sixth Reg't.; Sidney L. Reed, veteran, Jan. 26, Twenty-fifth Reg't.

The names of the remainder will appear in the full roll of soldiers on subsequent pages. The recruiting officer was allowed \$25 for each veteran, and \$15 for each new recruit. The sum for the whole list was \$710.00, for which neither the Selectmen nor the committee ever received anything but their expenses.

The year 1864 was one of toil and triumph. Sherman made his way to Atlanta, and on to the Atlantic coast, fighting and driving back the enemy at every step. Grant led his invincible hosts through the wilderness, and put them on the defensive in Richmond and Petersburg. Thomas annihilated the army of Hood at Nashville. Everywhere on the sea as well as on the land, our forces were victorious. In all these successes our citizens felt the deepest patriotic interest; in some of them the interest was personal also, because our men were engaged in them. Our neighbors and friends endured the hardships of war. Some were wounded; some died of disease, and some were killed in battle. Hubbard H. Baldwin was killed in action on the 19th of September, and Adam E. French on the 19th of June. Franklin L. Whitney was killed in the same month. These and others, the date of whose death is not ascertained, fell in the "high places of the field." George H. Parks died at Annapolis, on the 19th of September. He was a good boy, and a noble young man. An only son, it was hard to give him up, but his sense of duty impelled him to enlist, at first in the Fifty-third Regiment. He remained with it in Louisiana till compelled to come home. He was discharged in May, 1863, and when he reached home, appeared like a corpse that had been a week in the tomb. But he rallied, grew strong, and pure love of the cause hurried him again into the field. He joined the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Co. A, and was appointed serjeant. For awhile he acted as clerk of Col. Kimball, but preferred the severer duties of the soldier. He was in the Wilderness, and endured its terrible struggle. The day before the explosion of the mine at Petersburg, on the 30th day of July, he wrote home that he was sick, and should go into hospital the next day. Instead of that, he was in the assaulting column, and owing to the absence of officers, led his company into that "hell of horrors." He was taken prisoner, and carried to Danville.

In September he was exchanged and brought to Annapolis. Word came that he was doing well, but sickness in a rebel prison had been too much for his constitution. He died in a few days. His remains were brought home, and amid universal sympathy, were laid in our beautiful cemetery. What is thus said of Parks, applies with more or less propriety, to our other young heroes. They were willing offerings on the altar of their beloved country. "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions."

#### SECTION 9.—WINCHENDON MEN WHO ENLISTED OUT OF THE STATE.

Before closing up the story of the war, it seems best to insert the names of residents of this town who joined Regiments belonging to other States.

In New Hampshire Regiments were the following: In Co. C, Second Reg't, C. H. Lawrence, John M. Stearns; in Co. A, Second Reg't, Albert R. Bowen, Frederick A. Bowen, Frank Nash, Frank Peirce; in Co. E., Second Reg't, Luther W. Forrest; in Co. —, Sixth Reg't, Almon Nutting; in Co. I, Third Reg't, John H. Hitchcock; in Co. K, Fifth Reg't, Lorenzo Coburn, George Goodall, Noah Paro; in Co. —, Sixth Reg't, Ambrose Butler, Enoch Nichols; in Co. —, Ninth Reg't, Henry W. Clark.

In Vermont Regiments were the following: In First Cavalry, Joseph Hyatt; in Co. —, Twenty-fourth Reg't, Wm. W. Peirce; in Co. —, Seventh Reg't, W. H. H. Putnam.

The following were in Connecticut Regiments: In Co. —, First Reg't, E. W. Stocking, George Taylor; in Co. —, Fourth Reg't, Clinton D. Towns.

The following men were in New York Regiments: In the One Hundred Seventh Reg't, L. J. Wilkinson, Walter Wilkinson; in the Ninety-ninth Reg't, C. F. Brown, A. E. French, Samuel J. Lowell. Besides these, George Thomas was, for some time, in the New York Cavalry.

Thomas Mitchell was a member of Co. M, Third Reg't Rhode Island Heavy Artillery.

#### SECTION 10.—CLOSE OF THE WAR.

There was a call for additional troops on the 19th of December, 1864, but it was not acted on until the opening of 1865. A subscription was raised to obtain recruits. This was done by assessment, and none were

asked to subscribe more than six dollars, though a few gave more. Over two hundred names are in the subscription book, and the amount raised was \$1122.00; but about three-quarters of this was refunded by the town, leaving about \$274.00 as the real sum obtained by subscription at this time.

At a town meeting held on the 30th of January, 1865, it was voted "that the Treasurer be instructed to borrow a sufficient sum of money, to be applied, under the direction of the Selectmen, to pay a bounty not exceeding \$125.00 to each volunteer necessary to fill the quota of this town under the call of December 19, 1864." And on the 6th of March, it was voted "to raise money and appropriate the same for the relief of the families and dependents of volunteers." This is the last vote of the town in relation to raising soldiers for the war. The work of recruiting was done, and the army and navy were giving the finishing stroke to the rebellion. Terry and Porter took fort Fisher early in the year; Sherman marched north through the Carolinas; Grant pounded his way into Richmond and Petersburg, and the wicked rebellion was subdued. Our soldiers who were yet in the field soon returned home, and there was general rejoicing. Before closing this section, however, it should be said that our quota had been readily filled at every call; and generally the town was in advance of the demands of the government. Every requisition had been promptly and cheerfully met; money had been raised freely; and the town paid its way, without incurring large debts. It was wisely judged that it was easier to pay when gold was at 280, than when paper should approximate to par value. It is to the credit of the town that all the heavy burdens of the war were borne without stinting the appropriations for other objects except for a year or two. In 1862, the appropriation for schools was diminished, but by reason of the depression of wages, the schools were in session nearly up to the average time. By degrees the sums raised for schools and other purposes, were brought up to the usual standard, and before the war closed, the annual sum for schools was increased more than twenty-five per cent.

#### SECTION II.—A DAY OF REJOICING.

News of the capture of Richmond and Petersburg reached town on the third of April, 1865. This was rightly considered the harbinger of peace, and the pledge of the speedy collapse of the rebellion. The

next day, the fourth of April, was given up to general rejoicing. There was a procession of great length. The bells were rung, cannon were fired, and happy congratulations were exchanged whenever people met in the streets.

There was a meeting in the town hall, which was attended by a large crowd. John H. Fairbanks was in the chair. Brief, spirited, pointed speeches were made by Hon. Giles H. Whitney, Rev. Messrs. Marvin, Best and Litchfield, and Messrs. H. Wyman, O. Mason, G. S. Whitney and Reuben Harris. All were applauded to the echo, because the speakers expressed what was in all hearts.

After the meeting was over, there was a novel exhibition in the streets, which, while it provoked laughter, was suggestive of grave thoughts, and indicative of a mighty revolution accomplished. An elegant coach, drawn by two spirited horses, with a white driver, passed along, and inside was seen a colored gentleman, painted up for the occasion, riding in state. Yes, the war was over; the rebellion was ended, substantially. Slavery was dead; a new civilization was begun at the South; our country was becoming homogeneous, and men could ride in coaches without regard to race or color. Cheers greeted this little pantomime. Volumes of meaning were crowded into it, and the whole revolution was seen at a glance. With a touch of burlesque it mingled the gravest truth, and betokened the most marvelous progress. In the evening there was a general illumination, and the Village was in a blaze of light from end to end.

On the 10th of April, word came flashing over the wires, that Lee had surrendered the army of Virginia, at Appomattox, on the morning of the ninth. The rejoicing broke out anew. Flags were raised, salutes were fired, and the bells were rung right merrily. On the following Sabbath, thanksgivings to the Lord of Hosts were offered up in all our churches.

#### SECTION 12.—COST OF THE WAR.

The pecuniary cost of the war of freedom and nationality, to the people of Winchendon, is to be found by adding together the appropriations made by the town for war purposes, and for "aid" to the soldiers' families; the subscriptions of individuals to pay bounties, and furnish arms to the soldiers; the gifts of societies and personal friends, to provide comforts for the men; and the contributions to the Sanitary and the



Christian Commissions. Exactness cannot be attained in fixing the amount, but enough can be given to confer lasting honor upon the town.

The war expenses of the town are recorded, from year to year, in the annual reports of the Selectmen and Town Treasurer. Large bounties were paid to some of the soldiers. In some cases, these were raised by subscription ; but the town refunded the sums thus raised, to a great extent. Several thousand dollars were given to soldiers' families, year by year, called " State aid." As this was refunded by the State, some may hastily infer that the State aid cost nothing to the town. But the town was taxed, in common with all the towns and cities in the Commonwealth, to raise the money by which the State aid was refunded to the towns. As Winchendon is about an average town, in the matter of taxation, the amount paid to soldiers' families was about equivalent to what was received from the State Treasury. It will be safe, therefore, to give the amount paid out to families, by the town Treasurer, as the real expense of the town for that object. And in the matter of bounties, the sums voted in advance, are not to be taken, but the sums actually paid, as given in the Treasurer's report. Each report was made at the March meeting, and related to the year closing on the last day of the preceding December.

The expense in 1861 was all for State aid, and amounted to \$1,095.65.

The expenses of the year 1862, were as follows : Bounties to eighty-nine men, at \$100 each man, \$8,900.00 ; State aid, \$4,707.60 ; Sundries, \$184.05. Amount for the year, \$13,791.65.

Expenses of the year 1863 : Bounties for volunteers, \$4,615.16 ; State aid, \$6,341.56 ; Sundries, \$83.12. Amount for the year, \$11,039.84.

Expenses for the year 1864 : Bounties for volunteers, \$7,250.00 ; State aid, \$4,315.45 ; reimbursement of subscriptions, \$4,100.00 ; Sundries, \$360.17. Amount for 1864, \$16,025.62.

Expenses in the year 1865 : State aid, \$1,489.06 ; Sundries, \$7.75. Besides this, there were nearly \$300.00 of a subscription not refunded. Amount for the year, \$1,796.81. The total amount during the war, was \$43,749.12. To this must be added about \$5,000 of another subscription, making the amount \$48,749.12. The commutation money paid by twenty-four men, at one time, at \$300, each, amounted to \$7,200.

The amount given by individuals to furnish arms to the soldiers, and as private bounties, can never be ascertained. Several of the first to

enlist, were provided with revolvers. Individuals, at different times, added to the bounties offered by the town, state or nation. As one man,—Mr. Nelson D. White—gave not far from \$300 in this way, it will be perfectly safe to set down the amount contributed for this purpose, as not less than \$1000. The amount thus far is very near \$56949.12.

All the soldiers had personal friends and relatives, who sent aid in various forms. The aggregate was large; but of this no record can be made, since there are no means of approximating to accuracy. Moreover, the remains of many soldiers were brought home and buried, at great expense. Of this expense, no account can be rendered.

Many visited the army at various times, and never went empty-handed. The sums contributed in this way were large, but there is no means of ascertaining the amount.

The young ladies in the North Congregational Church, the ladies in the Methodist Church, and the ladies in the Centre, and a Society of ladies in Waterville, of which, in successive years, Mrs. C. P. Carpenter and Mrs. Wm. L. Woodcock were Presidents, and Mrs. A. D. Hastings and Mrs. George Brooks, Secretary and Treasurer, did much to relieve the wants of their friends in the field. A Union Society of ladies from different sections of the town, met often in the town hall, and by their labor, and the sums collected by them, and the avails of lectures, they gathered and remitted supplies of great value to the soldiers, either directly, or through the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, or the Boston Tract Society. Of this Society, Mrs. Rev. B. H. Clarke and Mrs. Jacob Taylor were Presidents, Mrs. Elisha Murdock, Treasurer, and Mrs. William Brown, Secretary. The Vice Presidents were Mrs. O. Chamberlain, C. H. Marvin, Mary W. Godding, W. L. Woodcock, John Cutter, E. H. Townsend, George Brown, and O. M. Mason. There was a numerous list of Directresses and Collectors. The Society was very efficient. The meetings were always opened with prayer, either by a clergyman or by a member. The amount raised and forwarded, estimated in money, was \$1,079.39. The amount sent by the Waterville Society was not less than \$150.00. From the Centre came about \$75.00. Total, \$1,304.39.

In addition, collections were taken up in the North Congregational Church, on several occasions, not included in the above recital. Passing over contributions for Kansas sufferers, in 1861, to the amount

\$50.89, and aid for the freedmen, at various times, amounting to \$205.25, this Church gave in 1862, \$25.00 for aid of soldiers; in 1863, \$45.25, through the Christian Commission, and \$30.00 through the Tract Society; in 1864, \$90.00 through the Sanitary Commission, and through the Christian Commission, \$156.33; in 1865, \$35.00 through the Sanitary Commission, and \$70.68. The amount is \$352.26.

In May, 1864, a meeting was held in the town hall, and a committee was chosen to "collect funds for the benefit of the soldiers from this town in the field, and for the Christian Commission." For the soldiers they collected \$521.00, besides stores, and for the Commission, \$98.50. Total. \$620.00. O. Mason, John H. Fairbank and H. E. Weston were chosen a sub-committee to disburse the fund. Mr. Weston was appointed treasurer. Of this sum, \$389.83 were given to soldiers in the field, or to aid their friends at home. The balance, \$230.17, is in the Savings Bank, and may be used as "aid" to soldiers, or for a monument.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| The amount raised by the town and by subscription,           |                    |
| as bounties, state aid, &c., for war purposes was            | \$55,949.12        |
| Private bounties, not less than                              | 1,000.00           |
| Contributions by ladies' societies, citizens, churches, &c., | 2,276.65           |
| Total,   | <hr/> \$59,225.77. |

#### SECTION 13.—NUMBER OF SOLDIERS, CASUALTIES, &c.

The number of soldiers which Winchendon was required to furnish, through the war, was between three hundred and seventy and three hundred and eighty. The exact number, after inquiry in every quarter, cannot be ascertained. The number of men who went into the field, from this town, in Massachusetts regiments, and in the regular army, including volunteers and drafted men, was—very nearly—two hundred and fifty-five.

The number who re-enlisted, and were therefore counted twice, was about twenty.

The number of colored recruits, entered in the name of some citizen of Winchendon, was four.

The number who joined regiments of other states, some if not all of whom were counted in the quota of this town, was twenty-seven.

The number obtained through the intervention of brokers was forty-two.

The number of Massachusetts men in the navy who were counted in

this town's quota, was about sixteen. The whole number is three hundred and eighty-eight.

In addition it should be said that Roswell M. Shurtleff, whose home was here almost up to the beginning of the war, was first lieutenant and adjutant in the Naval Brigade, known as the Ninety-ninth N. Y. Vols.; was wounded and captured while on scouting duty, near Bethel, Va., July 9, 1861; was returned on parole, Feb. 22, 1862, and was on duty at Camp Parole, Annapolis, more than a year.

Corporal Henry Eddy Chase, son of Mr. Archibald Chase, was in Battery G, Rhode Island Light Artillery. He was killed instantly, October 19, 1864, at the battle of Cedar Run, when Sheridan annihilated the forces of Early. A letter from his captain speaks of him in the highest terms as one who "performed his duty faithfully, and was loved by every one."

Edgar Pitkin, son of Mr. Harry Pitkin, was a native of this town, and was educated in our schools. At the outbreak of the war he was in a lawyer's office in Burlington, Vt., but he felt an irrepressible desire to enter the service. He first served as private in the three months volunteers; he then received the appointment of adjutant in the First Regiment Vermont Cavalry, and under Gen. Banks, distinguished himself at Orange C. H., Culpepper C. H., and at Winchester.

Being mustered out of service, he received a good clerkship in the treasury office, at Washington, but his heart was in the field, and he enlisted in the Fifth U. S. Cavalry, declining to receive a commission through political influence, but determined to merit it. He served as serjeant during Gen. Grant's campaign in Va., where he was wounded in the ankle. He then took part in the brilliant career of Sheridan, in the Shenandoah Valley, where he received a severe wound in the groin. As soon as possible he hastened back to engage in active service but died suddenly, on the 19th of February, 1865, at Camp Remount, Pleasant Valley, Md. He had been recommended for promotion, and would soon have received a commission. He entered the service under the impulse of a noble patriotism, which ripened into christian heroism.

The following are the names of those who were wounded, arranged alphabetically, viz :

Ball, Joseph J. G.,  
Chase, Daniel W.,  
Clough, Lewis V.,  
Crocker, H. A.,

Hyatt, Joseph,  
Matthews, Joseph B.,  
Parker, Theo. K.,  
Reed, Sidney L.,

Stratton, Charles H.,  
Sullivan, D.,  
Wells, Wm., T.,

Whitcomb, Benjamin,  
Wilkinson, Leon J.,  
Wyman, Horace H.

The following soldiers died of disease or the hardships of war, either at home, in the hospital; or as prisoners, viz :

Alger, Edward,  
Baldwin, John,  
Baldwin, Wesley B.,  
Bickford, Leander E.,  
Brabston, Patrick,  
Bradish, George W.,  
Brooks, George W.,  
Brown, George, 2d,  
Bruce, Robert,  
Buttrick, H. Newell,  
Coburn, Lorenzo,  
Damon, Theodore F.,  
Evans, Milo O.,  
Fenton, Patrick,  
Fisher, C. B.,  
Flint, Wm. M.,  
Gott, Orlando,  
Harding, Darius H.,  
Hill, Josiah,

Hill, Theodore J.,  
Knowlton, George,  
McLennan Donald,  
Norcross, George L.,  
Nutting, Albert G.,  
Parker, G. Cornelius,  
Parks, George H.,  
Powers, Hiram E.,  
Putney, Charles,  
Raymond, James A.,  
Samson, Charles,  
Smith, Wm. J.,  
Sweetzer, Joseph E.,  
Taylor, Eardley N.,  
Thomas, George,  
Town, Josiah T.,  
Wells, Thomas,  
Wyman, John M.

Here follow the names of those who were killed or mortally wounded.

Baldwin, Hubbard H.,  
Breen, Peter,  
French, Adams E.,  
Hale, Samuel B.,  
Hartwell, Rollin E.,  
Hubbard, Timothy F.,  
Lake, J. Henry,  
Maynard, Frederick,  
Matthews, George H.,

Norcross, Daniel,  
Parks, Edwin A.,  
Plummer, George E.,  
Sawtell, Alden J.,  
Scott, Elijah M.,  
Stratton, James S.,  
Whitney, Franklin L.,  
Wilkinson, Walter.

#### SECTION 14.—THE NEW ROLL OF HONOR.

The following pages contain the names, as far as can be ascertained, of all who entered the service from this town, whether in Massachusetts regiments, or the regiments of other states, in the regular army or the navy, including those obtained through the intervention of brokers. The names of those who paid commutation, are also inserted. Those obtained by brokers are at the end of the list.

## ALPHABETICAL ROLL BY REGIMENTS, COMPANIES, &amp;c.

| NAME.               | REG'T.  | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|---------------------|---------|-----|------------|---|
| Adams, Walter R.,   | 9       | H   | Aug. '62.  | Commutation.  |
| Aldrich, Marcus,    | 36      | D   | Sept. '62. | Musician; disch'd; drafted in 1863; paid commutation.   |
| Alger, Cyrus,       | 53      | H   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged Jan., 1863; corporal; wounded.               |
| “ Edward,           | 25      | F   | Aug. '62.  | Died July 19, 1863.                                     |
| “ Everard A.,       | 36      | D   | July '61.  | Re-enlisted.  |
| Allen, Austin E.,   | 15      | B   | Sept. '61. | Discharged Dec. 8, 1862.                                |
| Bailey, Wm. E.,     | 26      | I   | Sept. '62. | Killed Sept. 19, 1864; serjeant; Re-enlisted.           |
| Baldwin, H. H.,     | 53      | H   | — '62.     | Died May 2, 1863.                                       |
| “ John,             | 6th B'y | I   | Sept. '61. | Paid commutation.                                       |
| “ Marcus M.,        | 26      | I   | Sept. '61. | Died January 16, 1863. [arm and chest.                  |
| “ Wesley B.,        | 3       | I   | Sept. '61. | Dis. Aug. 19, '63; pr. capt. col'd soldiers; wounded in |
| Ball, Jos. J. G.,   | 26      | I   | Sept. '61. | Paymaster's clerk, Washington.                          |
| Barry, M. V.,       | 53      | I   | Sept. '61. | Vermont Regiment.                                       |
| Bates Charles,      | 15      | H   | Sept. '62. | Discharged.   |
| Beal, Madison,      | 53      | H   | July '61.  | Time expired. Corporal.                                 |
| Beaman, Wm. P.,     | 53      | B   | Sept. '63. | Promoted, captain. Time expired.                        |
| Beaudry, Amable,    | 2       | H   | May '61.   | Discharged May 18, 1863; died at home.                  |
| Bickford, L. E.,    | 36      | D   | Aug. '62.  | Deserted.   |
| Boston, Geo. A.,    | 2       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged March 12, 1863.                              |
| Bosworth, Henry E., | 2       | A   | Sept. '62. | New Hampshire Regiment. Musician.                       |
| Bowen, Alfred R.,   | 53      | H   | July '61.  | New Hampshire Regiment.                                 |
| “ Fred. A.,         | 21      | G   | July '61.  | Time expired; re-enlisted, 1st Cavalry.                 |
| Bowker, Joseph,     | 21      | A   | July '61.  | Re-enlisted. Wounded two or three times.                |
| Brabston, Patrick,  | 21      | A   | July '61.  | Deserted.   |
| Bradford, Frank,    | 21      | A   | July '61.  | Died.   |
| Bradish, Geo. W.,   | 21      | A   | July '61.  | Died.   |

| NAME.              | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|--------------------|--------|-----|------------|---|
| Breen, Peter,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Killed at Spottsylvania, May 12, '64.                 |
| Brooks, Geo. W.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| " Levi W.,         | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Died, September 19, 1862.                             |
| Brown, Fred. M.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| " Fred. P.,        |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                     |
| " George, 2d.,     | 25     | F   | Oct. '61.  | Died.   |
| Bruce, Geo. A.,    | 2      | D   | May '61.   | Re-enlisted and served through the war. Sergeant.     |
| " Nap. B.,         | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.   |
| " Norman,          | 36     | D   | — '64.     | Discharged. Re-enlisted.                              |
| " Robert,          | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Discharged March 17, '62; re-enlisted, and died 1864. |
| " Robert,          | 36     | D   |            | Prisoner; died at Richmond.                           |
| Bryant, G. Q. A.,  | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired. Sergeant.                               |
| Butler, Ambrose,   | 6      |     |            | New Hampshire Regiment.                               |
| Buttrick, H. N.,   | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died, May 18, 1863. Corporal                          |
| Byam, Chas. F.,    | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged. Wagoner.                                  |
| Carriel, Almon E., | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired.   |
| Cassidy, Patrick,  | 2      | G   | June '64.  | Cavalry.  |
| Caswell, David A., | 30     | D   | Apr. '62.  | Discharged April 27, 1863.                            |
| Chaffin, Matthias, | 42     | E   | July '64.  | Time—100 days—expired.                                |
| Chamberlain, S.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| Chase, Daniel W.,  | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Wounded at Cold Harbor.                               |
| " Edwin,           | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.   |
| " Wm. D.,          | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged. Corporal.                                 |
| Childs, A. A.,     |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                     |
| Chiller, Frank,    | 36     | A   | — '64.     | Under call of October 17, 1863.                       |
| Clark, Henry W.,   | 9      |     |            | New Hampshire Regiment. Discharged.                   |
| Clough, L. V.,     | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Re-enlisted; wounded at Cedar Creek.                  |

| NAME.               | REG'T.   | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|---------------------|----------|-----|------------|---|
| Coburn, Chas. E.,   | 53.      | H   | Sept. '63. | Time expired.   |
| " Lorenzo,          | 5        | K   |            | New Hampshire Regiment; died June 2, 1862.            |
| " M. V.,            | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| Coffin, Jason L.,   | 24       | C   | Dec. '61.  | Time expired.   |
| Combs, John L.,     | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| Comer, J. P.,       | 1st B'y. | C   |            | Discharged.   |
| Cook, George E.,    | 21       | A   | July '61.  |   |
| Crayton, Chas. M.,  | 21       | C   | July '61.  | Discharged in 1863, Feb. 10.                          |
| Crocker, H. A.,     | 2        | D   | May '61.   | Discharged. sergt.; wounded, and enlisted in 4th Cav. |
| Cutter, John C.,    | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Promoted, first lieutenant; Quartermaster.            |
| Damon, Theo. F.,    | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Died, November 29, 1862.                              |
| Day, Edmund,        |          |     |            | Paid commutation.                                     |
| Denary, John M.,    | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| Doyle, Luke,        |          |     |            | Under call of October 17, 1863.                       |
| Dunn, Isaac J.,     |          |     | Jan. '63.  | " "   |
| " Josiah J.,        |          |     |            | Paid commutation.                                     |
| Elford, William,    | 26       | I   | Oct. '61,  | Time expired.   |
| Evans, Milo,        |          |     |            | Died in service.                                      |
| Fay, John,          |          |     | July '64.  | Light Artillery; never joined for service.            |
| Felch, Samuel C.,   | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.   |
| Finton, Patrick,    | 21       | G   | July '61.  | Died.   |
| Fisher, Andrew,     | 15       | B   | July '61.  | Promoted; sergeant.                                   |
| " C. B.,            | 36       | D   | Aug. '62.  | Died.   |
| " Seth R.,          | 15       | B   | July '61.  | Discharged, February 3, 1863.                         |
| Fitzgerald, Ed. M., | 26       | I   | Sept. '61. | Discharged, September 25, 1863; pr. Capt. in 1863.    |
| " Patrick,          | 53       | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired.   |
| Flagg, And. J.,     | 21       | G   | July '61.  | Discharged, September 10, 1862.                       |



| NAME.               | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.   |
|---------------------|--------|-----|------------|--|
| Flint, Eleazer T.,  | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired.                                      |
| " Wm. M.,           | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died at Baton Rouge, August 14, 1863.              |
| Foskett, Isaac N.,  | Reg.   | C   |            | In the Reg. Army through the war; Engineer Corps.  |
| " Liberty, W.,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged; pr. Lieut.                             |
| " Wellington.       | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.  |
| Fosset, Luther W.,  | 2      | E   |            | New Hampshire Regiment.                            |
| French, Adams E.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Killed June 19, 1864. Sergeant.                    |
| Gibson, A. A.,      | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | First Lieut.; resigned.                            |
| Gilman, Jer'h,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged. Sergeant.                              |
| Godding Edward,     | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged. Corporal.                              |
| Goodall, George,    | 5      | K   |            | New Hampshire Regiment.                            |
| Gorman, George E.,  | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged.  |
| " Isaac,            | 53     | A   | Sept. '62. | Time expired.                                      |
| Gott, Calvin O.,    |        |     |            | Musician, 1st Cavalry band; discharged.            |
| " Orlando,          |        |     |            | "  |
| Gowan, Geo.         | 26     | I   | Feb. '62.  | Provided two substitutes.                          |
| Gowing, Jacques,    | 21     | A   | July '61.  | Re-enlisted.                                       |
| Hadley, Isaac,      | 2      | D   | May '61.   | Discharged.  |
| Hale, Livezey B.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired. Corporal.                            |
| " S. B.,            | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Killed at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864.             |
| " S. Jones,         | 24     | C   | Dec. '61.  | Time expired.                                      |
| Harragan, Joseph,   | 2      |     | June '64.  | Cavalry; unassigned recruits.                      |
| Handy, Jona.,       | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired.                                      |
| Harding, D. H.,     | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died August 3, 1863.                               |
| Hartwell, John. H., | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired. Corporal; re enlisted.               |
| " R. E.,            | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Killed at Chancellerville, May 1863. 4th Regulars. |
| Harwood, Jos. H.    | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged.  |

| NAME.               | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.                                     |
|---------------------|--------|-----|------------|--|
| Haskell, Henry,     | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged.                                  |
| Hayden, Chas. W.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  |  |
| Hayward, Chas. B.,  |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                            |
| Hersey, Wm. S.,     | 16     | C   | June '61.  | Discharged.                                  |
| Hill, Josiah,       | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died July 19, 1863.                          |
| " Theo. J.,         | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died June 25, 1863.                          |
| Hilton, Chas. S.,   | 3      | I   |            | New Hampshire Regiment.                      |
| Hitchcock, Jno. H., | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Sergeant. Time expired.                      |
| Holman, A. G.,      | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Discharged.                                  |
| " Wm. W.,           | 21     | A   | July '61.  | Discharged. Musician.                        |
| Houghton, Aug. E.,  | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired. Corporal.                      |
| " John W.,          | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.                                  |
| Howard, M. M.,      | 53     | H   | Sept. '72. | Killed March 23, 1863.                       |
| Hubbard, T. F.,     |        |     |            | First Vermont Cavalry. Discharged ; wounded. |
| Hyatt, Joseph,      |        |     |            | Re-enlisted, served through the war.         |
| Hyde, Alfred,       |        |     |            | 12th Battery. Discharged January 7, 1864.    |
| Jewett, G. A.,      |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                            |
| Kemp, Horatio J.,   |        |     |            | Time expired.                                |
| Kendall, Chas. W.,  | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                |
| " Ed. S.,           | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                |
| " Oscar A.,         | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                |
| Kinney, John O.,    | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Discharged before leaving Groton.            |
| Knowlton, Geo.,     | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Died, May, 1863.                             |
| Lake, J. Henry,     | 21     | F   | July '62.  | Killed September 27, 1862, at Chantilly.     |
| Lamon, Lawrence,    | 2      | G   |            |  |
| Lawrence, H.,       | 26     | I   | Feb. '62.  | Cavalry.                                     |
| " C. H.,            | 2      | C   |            | New Hampshire Regiment.                      |

| NAME.                | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|----------------------|--------|-----|------------|---|
| Powers, Henry,       | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| " Hiram E.,          | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Died, September 28, 1863.                         |
| " Warren,            | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| " William,           | 48     | H   | June '62.  | Time expired; nine months.                        |
| Prentiss, Samuel H., | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| Putnam, W. H. H.,    | 7      |     |            | Vermont Regiment.                                 |
| Putney, Charles,     | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died, August 24, 1863.                            |
| Raymond, James A.,   | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died, February 19, 1863.                          |
| Reed, Sidney L.,     | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Time expired; lost an arm; re-enlisted, in 25, F. |
| Resdin, Samuel J.,   |        |     | Feb. '65.  |   |
| Rice, Charles, J.,   |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                 |
| " Nelson,            | 3      |     | Sept. '61. | Discharged. Vermont Regiment.                     |
| " Otis,              | 3      |     | Sept. '61. | Discharged.                                       |
| Rich, James M.,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired. Sergeant.                           |
| " Jerome,            | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Re-enlisted.                                      |
| " Robert T.,         | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Transferred to veteran reserved corps.            |
| Riley, Andrew,       | 15     | B   | July. '61. | Discharged; transferred; corporal.                |
| Robbins, Amos D.,    |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                 |
| Roberts, George,     | 2      |     | July '64.  | Cavalry; unassigned recruits.                     |
| Safford, Stillman,   | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Samson, Albert,      |        |     |            | Navy from 1864 to 1868.                           |
| Samson, Charles,     | 30     | D   | April '62. | Died.   |
| Sawtell, Alden J.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Killed at Spottsylvania May 12, 1864. Corporal.   |
| " Frank B.,          | 26     | C   | July '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| " O. L.,             | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Scott, Abram,        | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Discharged. Teamster.                             |
| " Elijah M.,         | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Killed at Balls' Bluff.                           |

| NAME.                 | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.   |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|------------|--|
| Scott, Walter D.,     | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired. Blacksmith.                              |
| Shaler, Adam M.,      | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Paid commutation.                                      |
| Shaw, Robert N.,      | 2      |     | July '64.  | Discharged.  |
| Shea, Patrick,        |        |     |            | Heavy Artillery.                                       |
| Sibley, Delano H.,    |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                      |
| " Charles,            | 21     | F   | Oct. '61.  | Paid commutation.                                      |
| Simonds, John,        | 29     |     |            | Re-enlisted; 2d lieut.                                 |
| Smith, R. C.,         | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged February 24, 1863.                          |
| " William,            | 53     | H   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.  |
| " Wm. J.,             |        |     |            | Died, March 26, 1863.                                  |
| Snow, Henry E.,       | 30     | D   |            | Ran off.   |
| Spalding, John,       | 53     | H   |            | Discharged.  |
| Stearns, Charles T.,  | 2      | C   | Sept. '62. | Sergeant. Time expired.                                |
| " John, M.,           | 15     | B   | July '61.  | New Hampshire Regiment.                                |
| Stevens, Charles A.,  | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged February 4, 1863. Paid commutation.         |
| " Jérôme L.,          | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.  |
| Stewart Fred. C.,     | 1      |     |            | Discharged January 21, 1863.                           |
| Stocking, E. W.,      | 25     | F   | Oct. '61.  | Connecticut Regiment.                                  |
| Stratton, Charles H., | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged, August, '62; lost a leg; vet. re-enlisted. |
| " James S.,           |        |     |            | Killed at Antietam. Sergeant.                          |
| Streeter, A. W.,      | 3      |     |            | Paid commutation.                                      |
| Sullivan, D.,         |        |     | Sept. '61. | Discharged and lost left hand.                         |
| " Patrick,            |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                      |
| Tatro, Charles,       | 53     | H   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.  |
| " Lewis,              | 53     | H   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.  |
| " Marcus,             | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.  |
| Taylor, E. N.,        | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Died near Franklin, La.                                |

| NAME.               | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|---------------------|--------|-----|------------|---|
| Taylor, George,     | 1      | B   | Aug. '62   | Connecticut Regiment.                             |
| " George F.,        | 15     | D   | May '61.   | Time expired.                                     |
| " J. Hervey,        | 2      | C   | June '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| " John,             | 16     | B   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| " Wm. E.            | 15     | B   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Tenney, James H.,   | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Re-enlisted; prisoner.                            |
| Thomas, Bailey, L., |        | L   |            | In 7th N. Y. Cavalry; died in prison at Richmond. |
| Thomas, George,     | 32     | B   | Aug. '62.  | Deserted.   |
| Thompson, W.,       | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Died, April 27, 1862.                             |
| Town, Josiah T.,    | 4      |     |            | Connecticut Regiment.                             |
| Towns, C. D.,       | 26     | I   | Oct. '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Townsend, Wm.,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Warner, Ed. T.,     | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Deserted, October 2, 1862.                        |
| Warren, Charles A., | 21     | D   |            | Time expired; prisoner.                           |
| Welsh, John,        | 24     | C   | Dec. '61.  | Shot through the head.                            |
| " William,          | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| Wells, Edwin,       | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Died in 1862.                                     |
| " Thomas,           | 16     | C   | June '61.  | Discharged; wounded.                              |
| " Wm. T.,           | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Time expired.                                     |
| Weston, Herbert E., | 25     | F   | Oct. '61.  | Discharged.                                       |
| Whitcomb, A. H.,    | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Discharged, December 5, 1862; wounded.            |
| " Benjamin,         | 15     | B   | July '61.  |   |
| Whitney, Enoch,     | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Killed, June, 1864.                               |
| " F. L.,            | 21     | G   | July '61.  | Discharged. Quarter-Masters clerk.                |
| " Richard, M.,      | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Discharged.                                       |
| Wilder, B. O.,      | 40     |     | April '61. | New York regiment; wounded in arm. Sergeant.      |
| Wilkinson, L. J.,   |        |     |            |   |

| NAME.              | REG'T. | CO. | BEGUN.     | REMARKS.  |
|--------------------|--------|-----|------------|---|
| Wilkinson, Walter, | 40     |     | April '61. | New York regiment; killed May 5, at Williamsburg. |
| Williams, A. H.,   | 36     | D   | Aug. '62.  | Time expired                                      |
| Wilson, Ed. E.,    |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                 |
| Wilton A.,         |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                 |
| Woodward, A.       |        |     |            | Paid commutation.                                 |
| Wyman, Horace,     | 15     | B   | July '61.  | Discharged; wounded in eye.                       |
| " John, M.,        | 53     | H   | Sept. '62. | Died May 20, 1863, at Brashear City, La.          |

C. F. Brown, A. E. French and Samuel J. Lowell, were musicians in the Band of the 99th New York Regiment, until they were discharged.

Here follow those obtained by the aid of brokers, viz :

William Bowker, Charles M. Brown, Henry C. Butler, John A. Campbell, Isaac F. Chandler, Moses C. Clement, Michael Finlan, Michael Fitzpatrick, Bartley Flaherty, John Flétéher, William Ford, Charles F. Godsoe, John Gossak, James Green, Edward Grimes, Richard Grimes, Thomas Kelley, Augustus Koll, John J. Loud, James Mahoney, Charles F. Manning, John Mansfield, John Magrab, William J. Martin, John May, Henry Miller, Philip Morglan, George Moore, Edward C. Moulton, Michael McGowan, Nathan M. Page, John Riley, John Ryan, Josiah M. Sawyer, Leon Spanola, Albert J. Watis, Robert Scott Waterhouse, Edward Welsh, William J. Wheeler, John White, John Wilson.

## SECTION 15.—A DAY OF MOURNING.

The war was ended, virtually, though Johnson had not yet surrendered to Sherman, and Kirby Smith still held out in sullen rebellion beyond the Mississippi. By the capitulation of Gen. Lee, on the 9th of April, the war for national existence and for the freedom of all the people within the national jurisdiction, was triumphantly closed. The loyal part of the nation was filled with rejoicing. Just then an event occurred which caused universal horror and mourning. On the evening of April 14, the wise and good President, Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated. After lingering a few hours, in an unconscious state, he expired. The sad intelligence reached here early in the morning, while he was yet alive. Soon the word came over the wires that he had breathed his last breath. The story was told with tremulous lips and tearful eyes. A great grief fell upon the people. As the tolling bell sounded out the awful event, all nature seemed in mourning. Sadness was on every countenance.

In the evening, Saturday, April 15, a great meeting was held in the town hall. It was a spontaneous gathering of the people, who felt impelled to sympathize with one another in the universal sorrow. Hon. Giles H. Whitney presided, and in appropriate words, alluded to the death of our beloved chief magistrate. Rev. A. P. Marvin read selections from the Bible, and offered prayer. Remarks were made by Rev. Messrs. Best, Litchfield and Marvin, and by Messrs. Reuben Harris and Isaac M. Murdock. Historical parallels were referred to in the deaths of the great king Henry IV, of France, and the good prince of Orange. Solemn dirges were played by the Band. The people hung upon the lips of the speakers, as if they could not hear enough about the good president. There was the feeling in all hearts as if a personal friend had fallen.

The next day, being the Sabbath, all the houses of worship were tastefully draped in mourning, and the services, including music, prayers and sermons, had pathetic reference to the death of Mr. Lincoln. The writer, on this day, and on other occasions, was called on to speak at eight different times; others addressed the people several times, and yet there was a desire to hear.

The funeral of Mr. Lincoln took place at Washington, on the 19th of April, and by a concerted movement, funeral services were held all over the land, on the same day. In this Village, the churches were all open at twelve o'clock, M., and were all filled. After prayer, singing

and remarks, in each, the procession started from the Baptist church, led by the Band and the Alert Engine Company; arriving near the Congregational Church, the large audience, preceded by the Niagara Engine Company, formed in the procession, and all marched to the Methodist church, where a large number fell into line, and then proceeded to the town hall. The committee of arrangements consisted of the following gentlemen, viz: Orlando Mason, Baxter D. Whitney, John Folsom, L. Wilkinson and Charles Loud. Mr. Mason was chief marshal, and Messrs. Windsor N. White, James Marsh and William L. Woodcock, assistant marshals. Capt. Ephraim Murdock was president of the day.

Eight hundred persons were crowded into the hall, and many stood outside the building. The order of exercises was as follows:

Reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. A. P. Marvin;

Prayer, by Rev. B. F. Clarke;

Dirge by the Band;

Addresses, by Rev. Edward S. Best, Hon. Giles H. Whitney and Mr. Isaac M. Murdock;

Singing by the choir;

Addresses by Rev. George A. Litchfield and A. P. Marvin;

Singing by the choir;

Benediction, by Rev. Mr. Colver;

Dirge by the Band.

Though remarks were offered by so many different speakers, they did not repeat each other. The subject seemed exhaustless, and the great assembly held together till a late hour, as if bound by a sacred spell. The conviction seemed to be general, that while the nation had suffered an irreparable loss, still, the God of our fathers, who had sustained us through a wicked rebellion, would watch over and bless us in the future. Then sadly, yet hopefully, the people went to their homes. A day never to be forgotten even by the youngest child present, had reached its solemn close. And a great epoch in history had been consecrated by the martyrdom of the wisest and best actor in its memorable scenes.

The following Hymn, composed for the occasion, by Miss N. A. W. Priest,—now Mrs. Wakefield—was sung on the occasion, and finds here its appropriate place. It was sung by the vast audience, and the choir, led by E. S. Merrill, Esq., to the tune “America.”



## FUNERAL HYMN.

“ Oh God forever nigh,  
 Who hear'st the mourner's cry,  
     Incline thine ear :  
 We mourn the noble dead,  
 Our nation's honored head ;  
 Come, and thine influence shed,  
     Our hearts to cheer.

For four long, weary years  
 Of darkness, doubts and fears,  
     He led our way ;  
 He taught us faith and hope,  
 He shared our bitter cup,  
 He bore our banner up  
     In danger's day.

Now, when the sky grows bright  
 With victory's radiant light,  
     The nation weeps ;  
 Ah ! dreadful was the blow,  
 That laid our leader low,  
 But while we bend in woe,  
     He calmly sleeps.

Rest sweetly, sainted dust !  
 We will fulfill the trust  
     Imposed by thee ;  
 The land that holds thy grave,  
 The land thou died'st to save,  
 Shall never own a slave—  
     All shall be free.”

---

 CONCLUSION.

This chapter is merely an account of what the town did in suppressing the rebellion, and not a history of the individual soldiers who bore a part in that great work. There is no space left for giving such a personal history, even if it were desirable to do so in a history of the town. But it would be well if a separate volume should be prepared, in which

the story of every soldier who represented this town in the great war of freedom, should be narrated. The battles fought and the victories won by them, in common with their comrades from other States, should be recorded, in their honor, and for the credit of the town which sent them forth. The volume should contain extracts from letters written from the camp and hospital, to friends at home. Letters from officers announcing the death of soldiers, would also find a place. If suitable encouragement is given, such a work will, without doubt, find an author.

In conclusion, allusion must be made to another, though a kindred subject. There should be a monument, not only on paper, but in stone, to commemorate the patriotic heroism and devotion of the soldiers of Winchendon. In one respect, the town has not yet done all its duty. She raised her full quota; she paid large bounties to the soldiers; widows and orphans, made such by the war, have been generously provided for, by public vote, and private benevolence, but the town has never done anything directly to *honor* the soldiers. They had no reception on their return, and by no public act has there been a suitable recognition of their services.

It has been suggested by some, that a monument be erected, in some suitable place, to commemorate those who died in the war. Others have manifested a preference for a Memorial Hall, in which the names of the soldiers who fell, should be inscribed on tablets, while the building could be used for other purposes. Another method could be taken, which would answer the design admirably, and at the same time, meet a public want. It is to erect a Memorial Chapel in the Cemetery, of suitable proportions, and of enduring granite, on the walls of which could be placed marble tablets, containing the names of the wounded; of those who died of disease or wounds; and of those who were killed in the war. In addition, the names of all those who entered the service and came out unharmed, should be inscribed, because they were impelled by as noble a spirit, and did as much, amid the hardships of the march and the fire and blood of the battle-field, in behalf of the country, and of impartial freedom, as they who fell in the "high places of the field."

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